



John Lyttle

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Who is burning America's churches?

Section Two



A woman with a stomach for power

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THE INDEPENDENT

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FRIDAY 5 JULY 1996

WEATHER Sunny spells and heavy showers

40p (UK 45p)

Labour's road from socialism

New Labour was yesterday stripped of its last remnants of socialist baggage as Tony Blair took his manifesto to the country, declaring: "The old ideologies are dead."

At the end the "Road to the Manifesto" process, the way was strewn with discarded pledges and commitments that had weighed down the party's hopes for election victory.

Even before Mr Blair's leadership, heavyweight political commitments such as pulling out of Europe, unilateral nuclear disarmament, and renationalisation were dumped.

Yesterday, after still more pruning, the process continued with the dropping of the symbolic socialist words, "full employment".

Labour leader said the party was still committed to "high and stable levels of employment" - the 1944 Beveridge White Paper definition of full employment.

But he added: "I am quite convinced myself that what the people of this country want is not the Labour Party to promise that we can have full employment. What they want is that we will take specific mea-

By Anthony Bevins and John Rentoul

asures to get unemployment down... That is the only serious and credible pledge that we can make."

man. To unions' and left-wing delight, John Smith reinstated the words after that election defeat.

help the young and long-term unemployed. "Keir Hardie would sign up to that," he said. "Atlee would sign up to that, Harold Wilson would sign up to that."

linked thereafter to average earnings. Mr Blair said that pensioners should not "feel disappointed that we're not making huge promises that we may not be able to keep."

Vox pop Bolton is delighted

ROBIN EVELEIGH

Bolton embraced Tony Blair's vision of a new Britain yesterday, and even estate agents thought he would be better for the country than John Major.

Two of Bolton's three MPs are Tories holding marginal seats who would have found little comfort on the streets of the former mill town.

Ross McCawley, 24, is a voluntary worker for the Citizens' Bureau and active in his Labour Party. He said: "The five early pledges show that the Labour Party is the only one offering something positive for Britain. On the jobs front, the plan to get 250,000 people off benefits and into work is of particular interest to me - because I'm one of those 250,000."

"I did a degree two years ago and I'm still looking for full time work. Economic policies aren't so well defined in the manifesto, but the view and approach is sophisticated. The model and outlook is one attuned to the 1990s."

Estate agent David Redman, 26, said the economy could only benefit from Labour's policies, but worried that Mr Blair would ignore his pledges if he won control. "The housing market is already picking up - in fact Bolton is fifth in the country for improved property sales. The manifesto talks about long term, low interest rates, and that's definitely what is needed."

"I can't see that Labour getting into power would have any detrimental effects, so long as they stick to their guns."

Pub Landlady Carole Bretherton (pictured right)

said: "Everyone wants someone to do something that will help us all. But the way we are at the moment, it will take a miracle. So many people are so disillusioned, we are all working more for less. If someone could come along and make things better, they would be very welcome."

Head teacher Michelle Coughlin, 38, from St Andrew's RC School, welcomed Labour's education promises and the new "fast track" approach to crime: "The fewer children you have in a class, the more attention they receive. They need that attention to develop their potential. There are always going to be pros and cons about any future extra classes are added. As a shame Labour is not talking about raising the standards of the curriculum. A lot of students benefit from it and it would be better if they could find new funding altogether."

"As far as the punishment measures go - the 'fast track' idea is a good one. Punishment should come as soon after the crime as possible so that the two are linked in the mind of the offender."

Derek Hamer, secretary of Brighton Labour Club, said: "I am all for it. We have got to have a forward way of thinking and go with the New Labour."

"Something has got to be done about unemployment. I've got a son who has never worked - and he's 24 years old. It's soul destroying. They need something to keep them occupied, some training, but with some prospects at the end of it."

"That's what Blair is promising, and I just hope he can deliver."



Vox elite Hampstead is divided

CLARE GARNER

Leafy Hampstead, the north London redoubt of the juries (MP Glenda Jackson) found it could not agree on the Blair manifesto.

Novelist Fay Weldon said: "Who wouldn't want those things? Of course we all want smaller class sizes, etcetera. It's such a problem for the Left and Right to separate themselves nowadays. But yes, I'll vote for Blair. What we need is a new set of faces."

Helena Kennedy, the leading left-wing QC, thought that Mr Blair was describing "one nation democracy and that's certainly what we don't have. What's important for Labour now is that they bring back some sense of being a politician and speaking truthfully. We've had too many lies for too long."

Henry Kelly, the radio and television presenter, could not work up any enthusiasm for "any of this politics". He added: "I don't understand this New Labour guff. It seems to be a case of Tweedledum and Tweedledee. I don't mean I want a cloth and ferrets on the moor Labour Party, but they seem the same as the Tories."

The poet and gambler Al Alvarez (pictured left) thought the manifesto was "terrific. I wish him [Tony Blair] joy on it. I think

he's very brave to set out his stall so early but I feel that's probably the best thing he can possibly do because it's a show of confidence."

Astrologer Marjorie Orr said: "Yes, the Tories are tired, bored, stale and arrogant, but then you think 'oh dear. They [Labour] don't have any experience. Can we trust them? It's all good bullshit but there's no substance.'"

James Roose-Evans, theatre director and writer, said he had always voted Conservative, but he would support Mr Blair at the next election. "We need a change of government. His strength is that he is strong and if he gets too big-headed his colleagues will drag him down."

Author Beryl Bainbridge, who lives just down the road in Camden, said: "My hope is that once they get in they will be much more left-wing than they seem to be at the moment. All the moves appear to be following what the Conservatives think - apart from the bit about the poor."

Joan Bakewell, the TV presenter, was concerned about a lack of commitment to the arts. "He neglects the arts at his peril. The rest of it sounds marvellously optimistic, but what one would expect. It reads like it's from people who've never been in power. It has an upbeatness which is refreshing."

Defector exposes Saddam's lies on chemical weapons

PATRICK COGBURN

Iraq is concealing far more missiles, and the biological and chemical weapons to arm them, than the United Nations has yet realised, a senior Iraqi defector has told the Independent.

The former head of Iraqi military intelligence, General Waheed al-Sammara'i, says that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein wants to persuade the UN to lift sanctions on Iraq but still keep enough weapons of mass destruction to dominate neighbouring states. Speaking to The Independent in the first face-to-face interview which General Sammara'i has given, he said: "I believe there are 40 missiles and 255 containers of biological and chemical weapons."

If he is right, then Saddam Hussein could allow the missiles which the UN believes he has hidden to be destroyed but still keep the core of his missile programme intact. That would pose a continuing threat to the states which neighbour Iraq - including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Israel. Iraq threatened to use weapons of mass destruction during the Gulf War in 1990-1991, but though it did fire missiles at Saudi Arabia and Israel - they used only conventional warheads.

The UN has been trying since the end of the Gulf War to destroy all Iraqi missiles as well as stores of toxic agents such as anthrax and botulinus. But it has repeatedly insisted that Iraq has not come clean on the remaining stocks of weapons that it possesses, and that it is keeping secret manufacturing facilities and stockpiles. Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN team monitoring the destruction



General Sammara'i: 'Saddam has 40 missiles' Photograph: Philip Meech

of the weapons, says Iraq "may be concealing six to 16 missiles with a long range capability". But these revelations suggest the degree of deception goes much further than the UN previously assumed.

On fleeing to Iraqi Kurdistan 18 months ago, General Sammara'i said that the Iraqi leader was lying about the destruction of his most advanced weapons. This was later admitted by Iraq but it has claimed that the missiles and their warheads were destroyed after the Gulf war. General Sammara'i, at the centre of Iraq's intelligence operations for 20 years, says he learned about Iraq's hidden arsenal from an Iraqi intelligence officer in early June.

He also says that the bombing of US

military housing in Dhahran in Saudi Arabia last week, in which 19 American soldiers were killed, strongly resembles plans drawn up by a secret Iraqi committee on which he served after the invasion of Kuwait. He says operations considered by Iraq, but not carried out at that time due to shortage of reliable agents, included exploding large bombs near buildings where American soldiers were living.

US officials in Washington said this week that they had shifted away from their initial belief that the Dhahran bombing was entirely carried out and organised by Saudi dissidents.

General Sammara'i says that the committee in charge of sabotage on which he served, and which uses a special 600-strong military unit called 888 to carry out operations, still exists and he suspects it was involved in giving support to the bombers.

Despite the upsurge of in-fighting within Saddam's family in the last few days General Sammara'i says that it is unlikely that the regime is in real danger.

Two of Saddam's half-brothers, who are both formerly senior officials, are reported to be under house arrest and one has been under interrogation for three months.

The revelation that Iraq is still concealing weapons, if confirmed, may put in jeopardy a plan for Iraq to resume selling limited amounts of oil for food for the first time for six years. The United States has already protested that Iraq is trying to use the scheme to bring a total end to sanctions.

Saddam will use missiles, page 11

QUICKLY

Tax cuts in doubt

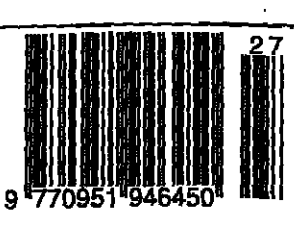
The Government's scope for tax cuts in the next Budget will be severely restricted next week when the Treasury announces government borrowing will be billions of pounds higher than its original target. Page 18

Mum's a hero

There are three kinds of women when it comes to giving birth - Romantic Princesses, Hero Women or Functional Women - a psychology conference heard yesterday. Page 3

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Police uncover IRA safe house

JASON BENNETTO and
DAVID MCINTYCK

Police have found a safe house used by the IRA terrorists who fired three mortars into the Army barracks in Germany last week.

German police said yesterday that three men and two women stayed in the holiday home in a village near Oldenburg from 15 June, two weeks before the attack.

Investigators found a map of Osnabrück, where the Army is based, and sketches of streets and barracks in the house.

which was discovered three days ago, according to a statement from the Federal Prosecutor at the Germany Supreme Court.

Police are also examining a Ford Transit flat-bed truck linked to the attack, which was found at a motorway service station at Wildeshausen, near Oldenburg.

The vehicle, which bore the false British number plate F291 TVN, travelled from Cork, Ireland, to Le Havre, France, on 23 June with the lorry used in the attack.

The motorway was closed in

one direction for one-and-a-half hours while the vehicle was examined, but forensic experts found no traces of explosives.

Police said the Transit van used in the attack was one of a number of vehicles seen at the holiday home. Police are also searching for a blue Ford Orion with Northern Ireland number plates including the letters DBZ, which they believe had been used by the terrorists.

The car was spotted together with the van used in the attack near the barracks half an hour before the blast, the po-

lice said. No one was injured when three mortars were fired from the right-hand drive truck into the barracks.

The shells, constructed by packing 176lbs of home-made explosive with a 5lb booster charge into 3ft-long gas bottles, were fired at a pair of fuel pumps, which were not in use at the time.

The mortars were launched, using a gunpowder mixture, from tubes on the back of the truck, also made from gas bottles. Only one shell exploded.

The German authorities be-

lieve the terrorists visited other houses with their vehicles before the attack.

Police have found two other vehicles thought to have been used by the terrorists in Germany, a Daimler-Benz Sprinter lorry and a seven-and-a-half-ton Iveco lorry.

The IRA yesterday took the step of flatly ruling out any short-term prospect of a resumption of its 1994-96 ceasefire, thus implicitly indicating that more acts of terrorism are likely.

The message was delivered in

an interview given by a senior IRA member to "An Phoblacht", the republican newsheet. As such it can be taken as representing the official views of the IRA.

Blaming the British government for the breakdown of the last ceasefire, the IRA spokesperson said there was no prospect of a new cessation "until the circumstances are right". The rest of the interview included complaints that the government had been intent on trying to defeat republicans rather than reach a negotiated settlement with them.



Big foot: Production staff carrying sculptures to be used for a production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at the Exeter Festival

Photograph: Tim Cuff

British monkey infected with CJD

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

A monkey born in Britain and sold to a zoo in France in 1980 has died of a CJD-like disease which it may have caught from its food, according to French research published yesterday.

The findings may be further evidence that there is a link between eating food contaminated with BSE, and the "new variant" of the degenerative brain disorder, CJD, which has so far affected 12 people in the past three years.

A member of SEAC, the Government's advisory committee on BSE and CJD, said that the case was "another piece in the jigsaw" of data regarding a possible link. "It just pushes it a little further in the balance of probability."

The report in the *Lancet* concerns a rhesus macaque, one of a pair born at Rom-gate Zoo in 1982 and sold to Montpellier Zoo at the age of 4, when the British was closed down. Six years later, one of the monkeys became lethargic and moved, and had itself from the other monkeys it was housed with.

A new examination of its brain found the "spongy" appearance matching that found in animals with BSE-like diseases. Macaques do not normally develop such diseases. But last month, another team of scientists induced it in macaques by injecting their brains with BSE-infected material. Importantly, the damage to the brain resembled that in humans with "new variant" CJD, rather than BSE or older forms of CJD.

MPs' pay: Rebels furious as Prime Minister says increases should be limited

Major faces revolt over salary curb

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major was facing an angry backbench rebellion last night after announcing that the Government would be calling on MPs to limit their recommended 20 per cent pay rises to no more than three per cent.

The Government was accused of failing to show leadership by Tory MPs at a stormy meeting of the 1922 Committee last night. Nicholas Winter, the Tory MP for Macclesfield, said: "It's a gigantic cock-up."

Tory MPs were preparing to defy the Cabinet's lead and to vote in favour of the 19,000 a year rises recommended by the Senior Salaries Review Body, to

take their pay from £34,085 to £43,000. They were so angry that some were ready to vote against the increase in ministerial salaries which could take the Prime Minister's salary up from £84,217 to £143,000 and Cabinet ministers up from £69,651 to £103,000 after the election.

Senior Cabinet sources said ministers would accept the increases, if the 3 per cent pay limit was rejected by MPs. Some Tory MPs accused ministers of leaving it to their backbenchers to vote the pay increases for them. "They are being very sneaky," said one angry Tory backbencher. But ministerial sources discounted early speculation that there would be a majority for the higher pay rise

and said last night that the vote would be on a knife-edge. "A lot of Tory MPs with marginal constituencies are going to abstain, because they are afraid of being attacked as fat cats by Labour candidates. It's far from a foregone conclusion," one said.

The Prime Minister said the pay rises were too high. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, who was also consulted before the decision to peg the increase, gave a clear signal he expects the Opposition front bench to vote against a higher pay increase. He said: "We have got to ask ourselves whether it is sensible when we are asking the country to make sacrifices to award ourselves some vast pay increases."

The Government payroll vote, totalling over 200 MPs, are expected to vote in favour of the 3 per cent limit. About 50 left-wing Labour MPs led by the Campaign Group will also oppose the rise. The outcome will depend on the number of abstentions in the late-night vote on Wednesday.

Chris Mullin, the Labour MP who will vote against the higher increase, said: "You cannot have one rule for MPs and another for everyone else." If it goes through, he will take only the existing MPs' salary and pay the rest to good causes.

Mr Winter, however, was also angry with the SSRB recommendation to slash MPs'

car allowances for bigger cars. He drives a 4.6 litre Land Rover to his constituency which is 180 miles from London with his wife, Ann, who is also an MP. He said MPs should have larger engines cars to be assured of arriving "in safety and comfort" from their constituencies.

Sir Terence Higgins, a former Tory Treasury minister, is leading the backbench campaign for the higher rate on the grounds that it is catching up for 30 years lagging behind the private sector. The pay rises proposed by the Government would raise their pay to £35,108 from 1 July 1996 with further increases from 1 April each year, linked to movements in senior civil service pay bands.

Going rate barely keeps up with inflation

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

If MPs give themselves the 26 per cent pay rise next week, they will mark themselves out as an exceptionally privileged group of workers. Despite the Prime Minister's opposition, MPs have a free vote and the increase would come at a time when the "going rate" for the rest of the nation hovers between 2 and 3 per cent which barely keeps pace with inflation.

In the public sector, ministers have ordered that pay increases should be "self-financing" which has translated into tens of thousands of job losses. Labour is expected to adopt a similarly tough policy towards state-financed wages if it forms the next government.

More than a million local government workers this year received a 2.9 per cent rise, while most civil servants are likely to get between 3 and 4.5 per cent. Some employees, however, have had their wages frozen for years on end. Apart from a freeze in 1993, the pay of MPs has accelerated every year since an independent pay review body was established in 1971.

From 1993, the increase in MPs' salaries was meant to shadow rises awarded to grades five to seven in the Civil Service - Whitehall's "upper-middle" management. Recently, however, the structure has been abandoned in favour of performance-related earnings administered by hundreds of departments and agencies. The system has therefore broken down.

In more senior public sector jobs, basic pay is comfortably ahead of that earned by MPs but there are fewer perks. Heads of departments at local authorities, who earn between £38,000 and £69,000, depending on the population of the area covered, have accepted an offer of 2.9 per cent, the same as their staff.

This year, senior civil servants have been awarded increases between 0 - for those regarded as "truly exceptional" - and 11 per cent for the "very exceptional". Unions point out that only a "handful" of mandarins were deemed to be in the latter category. Until the most recent award, permanent secretaries were on £90,000, deputy secretaries £67,500 and under-secretaries £55,000. Incomes Data Services re-

cently denounced MPs - and the journalists who cover their deliberations - for making "silly assumptions" about how much people earn in the "real world".

The research group registered exasperation that our elected representatives believe they are in the middle-income bracket. Alastair Hatchett of IDS, says MPs' present salary of puts them at the 5 percentile mark - where five per cent of the working population earn more and 95 per cent less. The 26 per cent rise would mean that 93 per cent were paid less.

Perhaps MPs are looking longingly at private-sector boardrooms where despite the Greenbury recommendations on directors' pay, senior businessmen are still awarding themselves double figure rises.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The private sector yesterday filled in a controversial bid to build the first fully privatised NHS hospital at Stirling near Aberdeen. Instead Grampian Healthcare, an NHS Trust, was selected in a £4m private finance deal. Part of the package, however, includes the construction of a 15 to 20-bed private nursing home alongside the 50-bed community hospital. It will be run by Community Health Services, which will manage the building and ancillary services. It is hoped the hospital will open late next year.

Dr Alex Taylor, the Trust's chairman, said: "It is encouraging to know that we can compete with the private sector." Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, is believed to have favoured a fully private deal. But Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, said recently that it was "not part of the Government's policy" for the private sector to provide clinical services. *Nicholas Timmins*

The leader of British Airways pilots yesterday insisted management must indicate their readiness to make a new pay offer before talks can be held to avert what could be an indefinite strike. Chris Darke said BA had called for negotiations in the past, but had refused to make any concessions over the 3.6 per cent pay package.

Managers said they were ready for talks, but insisted that the union's demands were unclear. The union is due next week to announce the starting date for industrial action. Meanwhile, representatives of 140,000 postal workers will today warn the Royal Mail that industrial action will be stepped up unless management makes significant concessions over their demands for productivity improvements. *Barrie Clement*

Solicitors and divorcees have sharply different perceptions of how far pension rights are taken into account in divorce settlements, according to research published by the Department of Social Security. Solicitors said pension rights were considered in 70 per cent of cases in England and Wales and in 85 per cent in Scotland. However, ex-wives said they were not even discussed in 65 per cent of cases.

Despite the finding, only a fifth of Scots solicitors and barely half that figure in England were satisfied with the way pension rights are currently treated. And only 45 per cent of divorcees were "very" or "fairly" satisfied with the financial arrangements following their divorce. A more 15 per cent felt they understood them well. From this month, the courts will have extended powers to consider pension rights on divorce. *Nicholas Timmins*

Former residents of children's homes who claim they were abused while in care, have had claims for compensation rejected on the basis that they have criminal convictions. But the convictions, mostly for petty crimes, were acquired after the abuse occurred, and their lawyers will argue at appeal hearings next month that in some cases the abusive experiences created the lifestyles which led to the convictions.

A total of 44 people who made claims are appealing against decisions by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to either make no payment at all or to reduce the amount. Around 30 of the cases are from England and Wales, with 14 from North Wales. A number of cases have already been settled for. In some of these, the young men who received compensation suffered the same kind of abuse over the same period of time as those who have been refused. *Roger Robson*

Bullying is making many young children ill, a study has claimed. Sleeping difficulties, headaches, stomach aches and bed-wetting were found to be common problems among children who said they had been bullied. The study of 2,962 primary schoolchildren was conducted through interviews by school nurses in Newham, east London. More than 450 reported being bullied either physically or psychologically.

The researchers, led by Dr Stuart Logan from the Institute of Child Health in London, reported in the *British Medical Journal*: "Our results suggest a strong association between reported bullying and common symptoms. Health professionals seeing children with these common symptoms should ask whether the child is being bullied. If bullying is reported, whether or not it is causally related to the presenting complaint, it should be taken seriously."

Two senior detectives flew to Spain yesterday in the hunt for a man wanted for questioning about a murder and an attempted killing. Police say they have received a number of "significant reported sightings" of Victor Farrant, 46, who fled Britain earlier this year. He is wanted for questioning about the murder of mother-of-three Glenda Hoskins, 45, whose body was found in her marina home at Port Solent, near Portsmouth, on 7 February. Police also want to interview him about the attempted murder of Ann Fidler, 43, who was left for dead at her home in Eastleigh, Hampshire, after being attacked last December. Using a false passport, Farrant is believed to have travelled to Belgium last February and stayed in the Uccle district of Brussels. Interpol have been alerted to watch for him on the Continent.

Mrs Lisa Leeson

Following our article "Farewell my fragrant hostess" (Comment, 17 May) the wife of former Barings trader Nick Leeson, Mrs Lisa Leeson, has asked that we correct any suggestion that she knows of any alleged offshore accounts belonging to her husband.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Dean Jackson: Civil suit

Carey wants to be rid of two 'scandalous' priests

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday urged both the Dean and the Sub-Dean of Lincoln cathedral to resign, calling their mutual enmity a "scandalous dishonouring the name of Our Lord" and "a cancer". But he then admitted

he could not force either man to comply with his request.

The Sub-Dean, Canon Rex Davis, has already refused to resign. The Dean, the Most Rev Brandon Jackson, has gone on holiday and cannot be contacted. He is facing a civil suit for "trespass on the body" from Miss Verity Freestone, a former verger. Last summer, he was ac-

quitted of having an affair in a widely-publicised trial.

Dr Carey was emotional at the hastily-called press conference yesterday to announce the details of his attempts to dislodge the two men, which have been proceeding in earnest since December last year.

He saw both men separately, on June 18 and 19, to try to

persuade them in person that they should both resign. But both men were determined to hang on to their positions.

The mediaeval constitution at Lincoln does not allow any member of the chapter to be removed against their will before the age of 70 unless they are found guilty of a crime.

Despite the Dean's trial for

adultery last year, and the Fraud Squad's investigations - at the Dean's instigation - of a fundraising trip to Australia organised by the Sub-Dean in 1987, neither man has been found guilty of any criminal offence.

Dr Carey denied yesterday that his press conference was called to put further pressure on the two men. His staff said it fol-

lowed a leak on the matter to a newspaper.

Dr Carey is only the latest to beg the two men to resign. The Bishop of Lincoln, and the Rt Rev Robert Hardy have also tried to persuade them. Last year, Lincoln's cathedral staff passed a vote of no confidence in the Dean's management style. The Archbishop said the

scandal at Lincoln has dogged him for months.

"I have been greatly shamed by it, wherever I have gone in the world. We just cannot allow this to carry on being a cancer in the body of Lincoln," he said. Neither man was available for comment yesterday.

Labour disestablishment threat, page 17

Heroines, romantics, and the functional ... the three categories who enjoy the most, or suffer the most, from having a baby

Finding pleasure in pain of birth

GLENDA COOPER and BRIGID McCONVILLE

There are three kinds of women when it comes to giving birth: they are Romantic Princesses, Hero Women and plain Functional Women, says Dr Marianne Morris, a health psychologist, who also claims that attitudes to giving birth can determine the psychological response afterwards.

Where Romantic Princesses seek to make the birth as perfect as possible, Hero Women see it as an "adventure" and Functionals just want it all to be over as soon as possible.

Speaking at the British Psychological Society's Women and Psychology conference, Dr Morris said that before the birth all 16 women she interviewed had agreed that the severity of the pain could not be predicted. How they dealt with labour - "the most painful experience in a woman's lifetime" - varied according to the category they fell into.

Contrary to popular belief, those requesting pain relief rather than going for a "natural" experience spoke more positively about their labour. Princesses, who worried most about loss of dignity, had the most negative reaction.

The Hero Woman wanted to remain in control. Several women spoke of "interacting with the pain", and questioned even the term itself: "Is pain the right word?"

"The romantic Hero says things like, 'I'm in control of my life', said Dr Morris. "She sees everything as an adventure and a challenge. She wants this experience ... I see her flying through the jungle like a female Rambo. One of my interviewees of this type was still cycling 24 hours before the birth, and three weeks later she was ready to cycle again."

In comparison the Functionals wanted to "get through it as easily as possible" but some felt guilty about their attitude. One woman commented: "She [the midwife] was

saying you couldn't be a real woman if you haven't wanted to give birth and had the whole thing, pain and everything ... I kept very quiet, and thought she would think I was terrible."

The Functional passed control over to others. Typical comments were: "as soon as it gets painful they can take over", and "it will only be what I want if I'm knocked out cold before anything happens." But Dr Morris said that because Functionals had a "more realistic attitude" to birth, they had fewer negative feelings afterwards.

It was the Romantic Princess who came off worst. "She is someone who wants to be the good girl and to remain in control," said Dr Morris. "She talks about having to turn away and pretend things are not happening - things going on 'down below' - She conforms to the stereotype of the feminine."

A typical comment was: "You are so exposed ... We were watching a video and the woman was laid there and from her boobs onwards was all that was covered. I would want to pull a sheet up over myself."

The reality of the birth was often distressing, and Dr Morris said that many Princesses tried to block it off, or said they would never go through it again.

Attempting to maintain composure, some blamed their negative experiences on fate, chance or God.

Despite the Department of Health's commitment to allowing people to choose the sort of birth they want, Dr Morris reported that all those in her survey gave birth in hospital, despite some of them having expressed a preference for home births. Others talked of being on a "conveyor belt ... the doctor came in to do me, and then in the next five minutes went next door." She concluded: "There is still not enough personalisation to the care."

As for Dr Morris herself, mother of a five-year-old child delivered by emergency Caesarean: "I put myself in the Functional category."



Water baby: It may be the ultimate romantic choice for many couples, but the reality of a water birth can be a shock

Photograph: Sygma

'I felt I was achieving something amazing'

Ann Batanero, 34, a solicitor, gave birth to Gabriel 14 months ago.

Before I was pregnant I thought birth would be horrendous; they could throw every drug in the book at me. But I moved from a position of ignorance to being well informed, and eventually decided that being in hospital was not the best way to deal with birth, which is not an illness. I opted for a home birth with no drugs.

I had a fantastic labour and came out of it with a grin from ear to ear, thinking "Wow! It hurt like mad but it was hugely exciting. I felt I was achieving something amazing. I had a water pool at home and I used a Tens machine, which is supposed to stimulate your endorphins. I certainly felt high: my husband says I was really funny and everybody around me was in hysterics."

The first stage lasted 10



Ann Batanero: home birth

hours, followed by two and a half hours of pushing, at which point they said I had to go into hospital. Gabriel was born 10 minutes later and I was home again two hours after that, so they wrote it down as a home birth.

While I was at home it was my show and I was running it, but once I was in hospital it was

completely not my show. They put me on a table and attached a ventouse machine to the baby. I felt totally processed; it was a loss of self, of my authority.

Pain in childbirth must be linked to how you expect it to be. My mother had told me I was born between lunch and tea, which was good because she didn't miss any meals. To me the labour felt like a bad stomach upset.

There were only two or three times when I lost it, which was when they made me lie on my back to be examined. In hospital they gave me a thing for gas and air, but I didn't bother with it; I was too busy breathing, which was brilliant for pain relief.

After the birth I felt that it was an amazing achievement. I felt so important, as if I could do anything. I put everything else that I've ever done in the shade. I was on a cloud after the birth; maybe I still am."

'I expected the birth would be debilitating'

Clare Brophy, 34, a health service personnel manager, gave birth to Hoppe 14 months ago.

I avoided thinking about the birth; it was too horrifying. I don't know where I got that attitude from, but I've never been able to watch birth on TV. I was very sick during most of my pregnancy and couldn't leave the house for much of the time. I hated pregnancy and birth, as I've always been very fit and healthy. Birth is debilitating. I expected it to be a draining experience.

I wanted the safety of a hospital birth in case anything went wrong, but not high tech. I wanted my labour - but not the birth - in water, with entonox maybe, but I didn't want epidurals or pethidine. I did yoga in pregnancy and we learned shiatsu massage for pain relief.

My waters broke three weeks early and I was induced. He was born within two and a half hours. It was just awful. I really hated it. I was very frightened and it was the worst experience I've ever had in my life. Yes, I expected pain, but I expected it to build up. Instead, it went from nothing to absolute agony. I couldn't even breathe or stand up between contractions. I was almost crippled. I couldn't move because of the pain; I felt paralysed.

The hospital staff were brilliant; they did run me a bath, but there was no time to get in it. I wanted an epidural, a caesarean, anything to get me through - but it was too quick for any of that, except entonox. I tore badly, had loads of stitches, internal and external. For me it was really terrifying.

It was all such a shock. I've never been into having a lovely cosy home birth round a log fire. Look at the third world: if we all had nice, natural childbirth, half of us wouldn't have survived. I took the realistic view, but it was all such a shock. My birth plan might as well have been torn up, although the midwives tried to follow what I wanted. The shiatsu was brilliant though, it really helped.

I'm going to my GP about having counselling before I face doing it again. I was in shock after the birth, but I was thrilled with the baby; he's marvellous. I will do it again, but I wish I didn't have to. I wish I could have another child, but that it would somehow miraculously materialise.

That it felt so awful was partly because I was out of control, and partly the fear of something going wrong. I've had a detached retina and when someone said, "I wonder if she's supposed to push?" it entered my head that my other retina might detach if I pushed. I was also worried about the baby, because it was happening so fast.

Battle for the right to do what comes naturally

GLENDA COOPER

Childbirth has never been easy since God told Eve in *Genesis*: "In sorrow shalt thou bring forth children." But things have improved dramatically since the 1890s, when five mothers died per 1,000 births compared with a rate of less than 0.2 today.

Some of the most dramatic changes in childbirth have occurred since the end of the war. Doctors came back from the front, wanting their jobs back and took control from the midwives who before then had reigned supreme. At the same time, the NHS was born, centralisation took place and hospital rather than home births became the norm.

There was still great ignorance about giving birth, which was not helped by lack of information for women. In the 1950s one of the most popular books, the *Sunday Express Baby Book*, devoted just one paragraph of its 240 pages to the delivery itself. The author, a Mrs Woodman, reassured young mothers-to-be that all would be well: "In the delivery room, white with bright lights, you will be taken from a hospital trolley to the delivery table. The nurses will be standing by with the doctor and with their gentle help and encouragement, aided by the science they have studied so long, your baby will be born," she wrote.

Interest in natural childbirth had been quietly growing, however, since 1943 with the publication of *Childbirth Without Fear*, by Dr Grantley Dick-Read, which advocated relaxation techniques. In 1957, the Natural Childbirth Association of Great Britain, later to become the National Childbirth Trust (NCT), held its inaugural meeting.

Ultrasound was introduced in the 1950s as was electronic fetal monitoring but it was in the 1970s that high technology really took off. At one stage, half of all labours were induced and Caesareans doubled between 1960 and 1970, again between 1970 and 1978 and yet again during the period from 1978 to 1994. Fewer than 3 per cent of women had drug-free births and by the 1980s less than 1 per cent of births were at home.

At the same time, natural birth advocates were fighting back. Michel Odent, a French obstetrician pioneered the use of warm pools in the 1970s and today nearly all hospitals have facilities for water during labour. The 1980s also saw the active management of labour, pioneered in Dublin, which ensures no labour lasts more than 12 hours by artificially stimulating the uterus.

The culmination of the natural birth lobby's efforts was *Changing Childbirth*, the 1993 report of the Government's Expert Maternity Committee, which aimed to place women back in control in the labour ward.

'It was like I was in slow motion'

Deborah Veale, 28, a youth worker, gave birth to Ryan 11 months ago.

I didn't know what to expect. It was quite frightening; you hear stories about women shouting out in God knows how much pain. And while I was expecting Ryan, my sister lost a baby at 28 weeks and a friend had a scan showing her baby was spina bifida. It made me nervous.

I planned to go to hospital and I just wanted to go with the flow. Some women say, "I'm not having an epidural", but at the end of the day the doctors and midwives, they know best, that's how I look at it. My husband was with me throughout.

Beforehand I was worried about what he'd see, from that

end. He saw more of me that day than he ever has. I thought it was going to be degrading, being laid on a table with my legs in the air showing it off to all and sundry. It was the embarrassment of it all.

But during the birth I was totally out of it. I had pethidine, then gas and air, then an epidural followed by two epidural top-ups. I had a gown on, which they kept lifting up to monitor

me, which bothered me, so I kept pulling the gown down. I'm not a prude but I'm a large person. It was my top half I was concerned about.

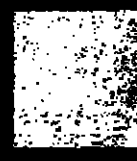
The first pains woke me up on the Sunday morning and he was born at 3.30pm on the Wednesday. I hadn't slept in between. I didn't know it at the time but I had an episiotomy, and it was a ventouse delivery because he went into foetal

distress after they broke my waters. They lost Ryan's heartbeat and people came in in white coats. That panicked me ... When he came out, the first thing I asked was "Is he okay?"

I was so numb I couldn't feel my contractions. It was like I was in slow motion. It was okay, but the only regret I have was that I wasn't in control. Next time, I wouldn't have the second epidural top-up.

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THE BLAIR MANIFESTO

Promise that 'things can only get better'

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Tony Blair unveiled his party's vision of a "new life for Britain" yesterday, a 36-page "pre-manifesto" bringing together policies and themes around five "early pledges" for the next election that "will make a real difference to people's lives".

Backed by the pop song "Things Can Only Get Better", and watched by Shadow Cabinet colleagues, Mr Blair declared: "In government, this will be what we deliver."

The five pledges are: to cut infant class sizes to 30; to halve the time from arrest to sentencing for young offenders; to get 250,000 under-25s off benefits and into work; and to set "tough" rules for public spending and borrowing.

In an unprecedented exercise in British politics, the manifesto

will be put to a ballot of Labour Party members and Labour-supporting trade unionists after it is approved, as expected, by Conference in October.

Mr Blair brushed aside talk of a rising tide of disquiet among MPs over the "undemocratic" nature of the "take it or leave it" ballot on the manifesto. "If people believe this is not the direction the Labour Party should go in, now is the time to say. It is the time to choose as a party. It is the time to choose as a country," he said.

Two million copies of *New Labour: New Life for Britain* will be sent to all households in target marginal seats, along with cards printed with the five pledges and the words: "Keep this card and see that we keep our promises."

The Conservatives responded with cards printed with the five "new dangers" posed by New Labour, handed out by

Tory activists picketing the launch at Labour's Millbank media centre.

The cards claim Labour would bankrupt Britain with new taxes and extra spending; break up Britain by devolution; "sell out Britain by giving up our veto" in Europe and sign up to a single currency without a referendum; destroy jobs with the Social Chapter and a minimum wage; and let career criminals "get away with softer sentences".

This was followed by the Tories' unveiling of a "New Labour, New Danger" poster, portraying shifty eyes peeping out from behind red curtains.

In the Commons, the Prime Minister picked up the theme: "The new Labour Party's policies mean new taxes - taxes in Scotland, taxes on people with children aged between 16 and 18, taxes for living in London, taxes on jobs with the Social

Chapter and the minimum wage."

Mr Major said Labour's planned £3bn windfall tax on privatised utilities, which would pay for the youth jobs programme, was "unravelling before their eyes". And the calculation of the cost savings from scrapping the Assisted Places Scheme failed to include the cost of educating children in the state sector.

Both charges were instantly rebutted by Labour. A spokesman said the Government expected 86,000 new pupils to be absorbed by state schools this year without extra cost, and that the end of the Assisted Places scheme would mean 6,000 extra state pupils a year.

Mr Blair said at the launch: "There has been a revolution inside the Labour Party. We have rejected the worst of our past and rediscovered the best."



VAT, 10p tax band, higher well-off: questions to stay

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

Labour will spell out the firm detail of its tax commitments in the election manifesto, if not well beforehand, it was revealed yesterday.

The detail will cover three questions that were not answered in yesterday's draft manifesto, *New Labour: New Life for Britain*:

■ whether, or when, Labour will reduce VAT on domestic power and fuel bills from 8 per cent to 5 per cent - the minimum level allowed by the European Union following the Government decision to extend it.

■ plans for a new, 10p starting rate for income tax, including, possibly, the low-level income band it will help; and

■ whether Labour will introduce a new higher-rate income tax band for the well-off.

But the outline principles of Labour's tax regime were provided in abundance by yesterday's draft, which promised "fair taxes".

New Life for Britain said it wanted: "An internationally competitive and fair tax system that encourages work, savings and investment to help raise the level of sustainable growth."

However, it added: "Democratic socialism is not about high taxes on ordinary families. It is about social justice and a fair deal. Reducing the high marginal rates at the bottom end of the earning scale - often 70 or 80 per cent - is not only fair but desirable to encourage employment."

"Under new Labour there will be no return to the penal tax rates that existed under both Labour and Conservative governments in the 1970s, indeed we would like to reduce taxes for ordinary families, who have suffered enough."

It was estimated that the typical family had been asked to pay an extra £2,000 in tax since the 1992 election, in direct breach of 1992 election promises.

The document also said that the political system, as well as the economy and society at large, "must rise to the new challenges of a different world". Reform of the House of Lords,

devolution, a "revival" of civic government - including the possibility of elected mayors for large cities, a referendum on voting reform and a Freedom of Information Act were pledged.

In a section on "Leadership in the World", the document committed Labour to strong defence and a new agenda for reform in Europe.

Echoing Labour's view of the relationship between the individual and society at large, the document said: "Our vision of Europe is not that of a federal superstate, but an alliance of independent nations choosing to co-operate with one another to achieve the goals they cannot achieve alone."

But it insisted that alliances would be built by a Labour Government, within the European Union, to make sure that Europe became "open, outward-looking and anti-protectionist". It also said: "The issue of the single currency must be determined by a hard-headed look at its economic practicalities."

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Getting 250,000 under-25s off benefits and into jobs, treating an extra 100,000 patients by a £100m cut in NHS bureaucracy and introducing "fast-track" punishment for young offenders are three of Labour's firm "promises" on social policy.

On social security Labour is far less specific, aiming to spend less through welfare-to-work and fraud-busting policies, and promising to retain Serps, the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. Labour will, however, create a new framework for funded second-tier pensions as an alternative. Without any detailed commitment, the document states that "the benefit traps that make people worse off when they take a job must be tackled."

There is, however, "a commitment" to "high and stable" levels of employment - the 1944 White Paper definition of full employment - starting with a cash rebate for employers who take on the long-term unemployed, together with its pledge of a job or training for every



Promise: Labour's calling card - an aide-memoire for voters

Keep this card and see that we keep our promises. New Labour's early pledges are:

- cut class sizes to 30 or under for 5, 6 and 7 year-olds by using money saved from the assisted places scheme
- fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders by halving the time from arrest to sentencing
- cut NHS waiting lists by releasing £100 million saved from NHS red tape
- get 250,000 under-25s off benefit and into work by using money from a windfall levy on the privatised utilities
- set tough rules for government spending and borrowing; ensure low inflation; strengthen the economy so that interest rates are as low as possible.

For your copy of *New Life for Britain* call 0990 300 500

Labour

defend Labour against its suggestions for tackling disruptive neighbours, truancy, young children out late at night and vandalism.

"If your life is being made hell ... your rights are being infringed," it says.

EDUCATION

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

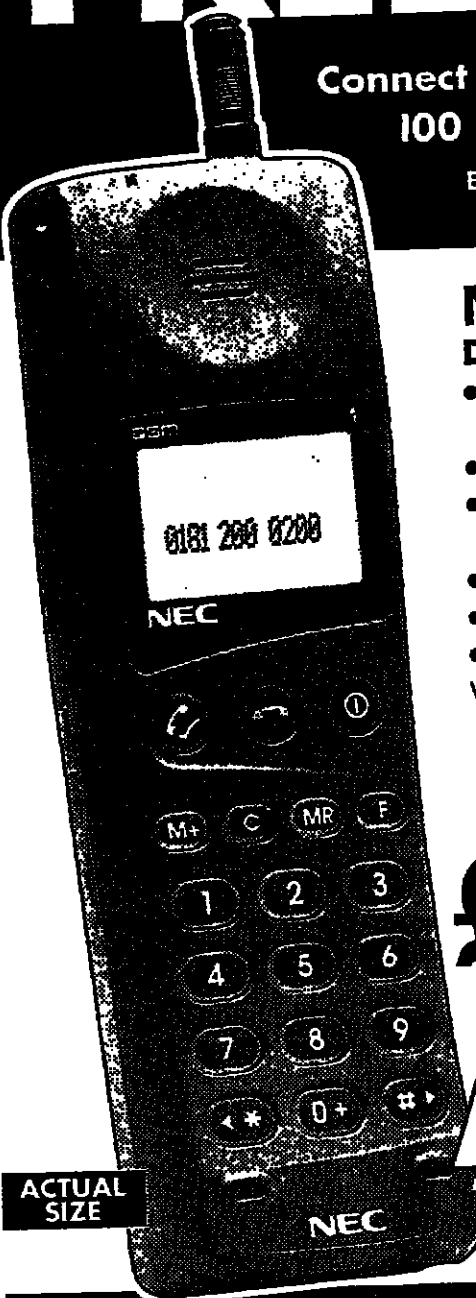
Labour would have to divert £68m from private education subsidies to cut primary-class sizes to 30 or less within three years, new figures compiled for the party's manifesto document show.

The pledge to phase out the assisted places scheme and put the money into mainstream schools will eventually save more than £160m per year, according to research for Labour by the National Foundation for Educational Research. This will take longer because subsidies will not be withdrawn from

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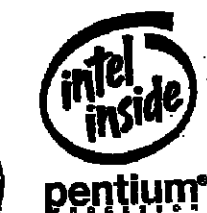
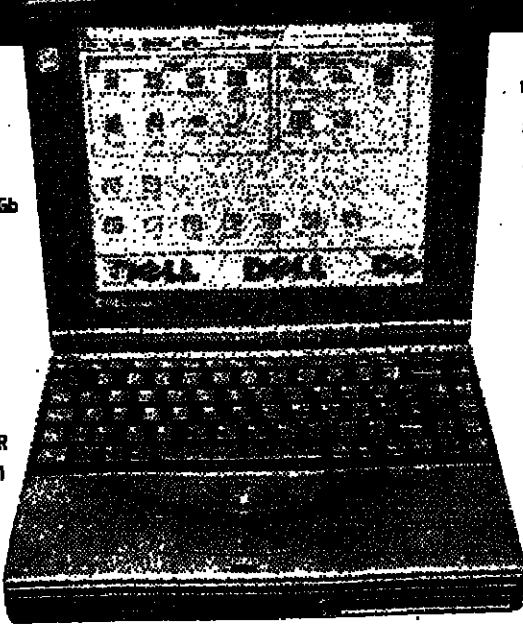
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THE BLAIR MANIFESTO



Brother Tony's testament is a beacon on the stony Road

I have, I confess, been a sinner. But yesterday, along with a couple of hundred others, I too saw the light on the Road to the Manifesto. A man – whose lack of denominational discrimination is causing havoc to established churches throughout the country (is he an Anglican? Is he a Catholic?) – is leading a new Order, whose objective is moral rearmament. It is a movement that stands for purity, for rectitude, for election.

Word having gone out before him, we gathered before the white stucco walls of an indoor monastery, a bowl of flowers picked in the gardens that morning by Brother Mandelstam adorning the simple table. But before the leader arrived, he was preceded onto the dais by other members of his sect. Twenty veteran monks, many ancient and venerable, disturbed from harmless contemplation in the loneliness of their cells, stood at the back, blinking in the light. Hermits, like Sister Lestor, who have spent long periods



DAVID AARONOVITCH

wrestling devils in the wilderness; Brother Clark – 17 long years stuck up a pillar or, at the very least, up a gum tree.

Others came straight from their duties. Brother Surang was in from tending to the kine, Sister Harriet from ministering to the sick with her poultices, the ascetic Brother Straw from a spot of Inquisition. Prior Prescott, the Order's simple untutored spiritual guide, could not be there: in person, we were told, being laid up in the infirmary with a broken ankle. But, in a press release of surprising length (given the pain he must be suffering), he personally

blessed the proceedings and hobbled amongst us in spirit.

The worldly necessity of the photo-call over, the platform party decanted to seats in the auditorium, leaving the stage empty save for three somberly clad figures. On the right, Brother Gordon, bursar and librarian, there to emphasise the discipline and frugality of the Order. On the left, Friar Cook, tricky theologian, to explain how the new doctrine was in line with the old beliefs. Every time he spoke it was to prove that more angels than ever before can now safely dance on the head of a pin.

Then, at last, Brother Blair addressed us, his eyes glowing with fervour and certainty. He warned us that the Road to the Manifesto was stony and narrow, not broad. It cannot be danced along, but each painful footstep must be carefully trodden. No miracles for him then, only transformations. He will not turn water into wine, but give him a straw, and he'll rustle up a passable imitation of Perrier.

He brought with him nothing less, he claimed, than "the rediscovery of the essence of Labour". Our hearts beat faster. What was this? A vial, filled with a reddish dust that liquefies every May Day? A reliquary containing the bones of Michael Foot, a hair from the head of Neil Kinnock? No, a document – a new testament – entitled *New Life for Britain* and containing the credo of the Order.

It was now, he said, a straightforward Manichean "fight between hope and fear". On the other side stood arrayed the forces of chaos and decadence. But behind him and his testament were the powerful shades of Labour's dead saints. "Keir Hardie would sign up to it," said Brother Blair. "Artlee would sign up to it, Harold Wilson would sign up to it." "Oh, let us sign up for it, Tony," sighed a couple of dozen hard-bitten and irreligious political correspondents. "let us join you on the road you must travel; the Road to the Manifesto."

rates for the unanswered



Warning: The Tories' response to Labour's draft manifesto

NEW LABOUR NEW DANGER

- 1 New Labour would bankrupt Britain with new taxes and extra spending to finance their stateholder policies.
- 2 New Labour would break-up Britain with their plans for a tax-raising Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and English regional government.
- 3 New Labour would sell out Britain by giving up our veto and signing up to a single currency without the guarantee of a referendum.
- 4 New Labour would demolish Britain's competitiveness in tough world markets with new regulations and the job-destroying Social Chapter and minimum wage.
- 5 New Labour would allow Britain's career criminals to get away with softer sentences.

children who already have them.

The document also promises higher standards in primary schools, with testing at five and a core curriculum for teacher training to place more emphasis on the basics – a policy announced by David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, in May and also favoured by the Government. It will also become easier under Labour to sack poor teachers.

On nursery education, the party would withdraw the voucher scheme due to be introduced nationally in April 1997 but would replace it with partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors. Labour does not favour a re-

turn to the 11-plus but would not close existing grammar schools unless parents wanted them closed. Its paper talks of a comprehensive education system which caters for all children's needs through grouping by ability, broader A-levels and better vocational qualifications.

In further and higher education, students will be given loans to cover their maintenance but will not be charged fees.

In training, individuals will be able to build up credits in a "learn-as-you-earn" account which can be cashed in for courses. A "university for industry" will use computer technology to enhance skills, and all schools and libraries will be wired up to the Internet.

Susan has cerebral palsy. I don't want to be a handicap to her.



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The Sporting Life's top tipster

Augur (Frank Carter) galloped away with the National Press Challenge for June and has selected more winners than any other newspaper tipster this year.

Read Frank Carter every day in

The Sporting Life

SS?

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A spokesman for the Millennium Commission defended its insistence on 50/50 funding, saying the rule enabled the money to be spread around between more projects.

But in the meantime the herring fever is in evidence.

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Coma patients misdiagnosed

Seventeen patients diagnosed as being in a persistent vegetative state – some for as long as four years – were in fact aware of themselves, their surroundings, and could communicate with carers, according to a study.

The extent of misdiagnosis revealed in this first, detailed study of PVS, has profound legal and ethical implications. It raises the possibility that some patients, for whom tube feeding or vital treatment was withdrawn at the request of their family with court approval, were not, in fact, in a vegetative state.

And scores of other patients in non-specialist centres, diagnosed as PVS, may be acutely aware of what is going on but being cared for as if they do not, nor being given any opportunity to communicate. There are between 1,000 and 1,500 PVS patients in Britain.

In the light of the findings, Dr Keith Andrews, author of the study and a world authority on vegetative state, is urging doctors to refer any patient in this condition to a specialist team before making any applications to discontinue feeding.

PVS is used to describe patients with severe brain damage who spend time awake and asleep; who show no evidence of a meaningful response to things around them, and whose movements and reactions are

Awareness found in 17 out of 40 victims believed to be 'vegetative'.
Liz Hunt reports

reflex. They can breathe on their own but most have to be fed through a tube.

Doctors at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in London, the UK's only specialist centre for vegetative state, studied 40 patients referred there since 1992 from hospitals where they were diagnosed as PVS. A total of 17 (about 43 per cent) were found to be misdiagnosed, some after just a few days' assessment.

According to a report in tomorrow's *British Medical Journal*, all 17 patients could communicate by pressing a buzzer or pointing with their eyes to make simple choices about their care. Eight of them could spell out letters to relatives.

Two-thirds of the patients knew where they were and had a sense of time. Three-quarters were able to learn new information, such as the names of staff, and two-thirds could process information like simple arithmetic. Those who could spell used their therapy time to

write letters to their relatives.

Dr Andrews, director of medical services at the hospital, said one of the principal findings of the study was that vegetative state – he wants persistent or permanent to be dropped from the title – is very difficult to diagnose. "It cannot be made by even the most experienced specialist from a bedside assessment," he said.

Two-thirds of the misdiagnosed patients were found to be blind and had been thought to be unaware because they did not track objects with their eyes or blink when threatened.

All had very limited movement so communication was difficult without special equipment. "It is highly unlikely that most clinicians will see sufficient patients to gain the necessary experience in assessment and treatment," he said.

The misdiagnosed patients, many of whom are being cared for at home or in nursing homes, remain severely physically and mentally disabled. They are all in wheelchairs and none can speak.

However, the majority had stated very strongly that they wanted to live. Dr Andrews said, and described their quality of life as good. "Human beings are survivors. Quality of life is something I say I have, not something that someone else tells me I have got."

Woman 'glad to be alive'

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

"I am a realist," says Jean Bailey. "If you saw my daughter you would think her quality of life is poor but she thinks it's good and she's told me so – and she also knows she is very disabled. You just have to look at her face. She beams at me and everyone on the ward."

Three years ago, Jean's daughter Anita, then aged 20, was diagnosed as being in a persistent vegetative state after a car accident which damaged virtually every part of her brain.

At first she needed a ventilator to help her breathe and her mother wanted it switched off.

"I did not want any pain and suffering. My main worry was that she would come out of it and wished that she died. It seemed terrible to me to keep someone alive just for your own personal feelings," Mrs Bailey, 47, says.

But her husband would not discuss it and her teenage son threw himself across his sister's bed and said no one was going to take her away.

Mrs Bailey, from Basildon in Essex, is grateful to them now. Anita came off the ventilator and breathed on her own. Shortly after she was moved to the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in London in March 1994, the head occupational therapist rang the family and

said Anita was not in PVS, and had begun to communicate by means of a buzzer.

Progress has been painstakingly slow and her mother puts Anita's mental age at about 13. She is incontinent and unable to move her limbs. She suffers agonising spasms in her feet and legs. However, she can hear and see, enjoys films, television, and makes regular trips out to the pub, clubs, and theatre.

"She loves a laugh and gossip with us. She uses a computer to spell out words although it takes her ages," Mrs Bailey said. "I have asked her – keeping it simple – if she wanted to die instead of live like this. She says she is glad she is alive."



The Royal Festival Hall's first contemporary ballet, *Mozart*, choreographed by the Belgian Anne Teresa de Keersmaekers, performed by her company, Rosas, and accompanied by the Baroque orchestra Anima Eterna. Photograph: Laurie Lewis

New jails to cope with 60,000 inmates

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

New jails and extra accommodation is urgently needed to cope with a spiralling prison population which is expected to reach 60,000 by this time next year, the head of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, said yesterday.

The appeal to the Treasury for more funds follows a disclosure that the Government has shelved its £2bn plans to step up basic security in prisons.

A massive security package proposed after the break-out from Parkhurst top security jail last year now seems certain to be put on ice.

The £2bn price tag is the estimated cost of implementing 73 of the 127 recommendations laid down by General Sir John Learmont in a review of prison security.

Most of the money was to bring jails up to minimum security levels, but Home Office officials say this is too costly and suggest stalling the plans.

In a draft report to the Home Secretary, they say a timetable could be published mentioning only those recommendations which do not require funding.

"Ministers could state that the omitted recommendations were those which were still undergoing study," said the draft.

"The other alternative," it continued, "would be not to publish a timetable. If Parliamentary Questions were raised, this omission would have to be justified. It could be attributed to the complexity of the recommendations demanding a more protracted study and evaluation."

But Mr Tilt, the director general of the Prison Service, warned that the growth in numbers of inmates was "extremely worrying", and said that new accommodation for inmates must be built. He pointed out that the number of prisoners in British jails has risen by 4,000 in the past 12 months.

Part of the increase is believed to be a result of the Crown Courts responding to calls from the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, for more custodial sentences and longer jail terms.

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politics

Constitutional reform: Labour hints at referendum

Public vote on future of Lords

STEPHEN GOODWIN
Parliamentary Correspondent

Labour yesterday opened the door to yet another referendum on the shape of Britain's government with the possibility of a poll on a replacement for the House of Lords.

Tony Blair has already promised referendums on electoral reform, for parliaments in Scotland and Wales and for a greater London authority. There is also the prospect of a referendum on whether Britain should join a European single currency.

The strong possibility of the public being able to decide the future shape of the second chamber, if Mr Blair wins the general election, came as Conservative peers staged a defence of the hereditary principle during a House of Lords debate on the constitution.

Lord Richard, leader of the Opposition peers, said Labour was proposing reform in two stages – the removal of the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Upper House and second, "a major exercise of public consultation".

"We want to ensure that, as far as possible, the whole country can be involved in the con-

sideration and determination of the precise nature and form that second chamber should finally take," Lord Richard said.

Of the 1,190 peers eligible to attend the House of Lords at the end of the 1994-95 session, 755 enjoyed that right by accident of birth.

Labour is pledged to move swiftly to abolish the rights of hereditary peers. The next stage is likely to be a Royal Commission to consider the power and composition of a new second chamber and how it should be elected. Its proposals could then be put to a referendum, a party source said.

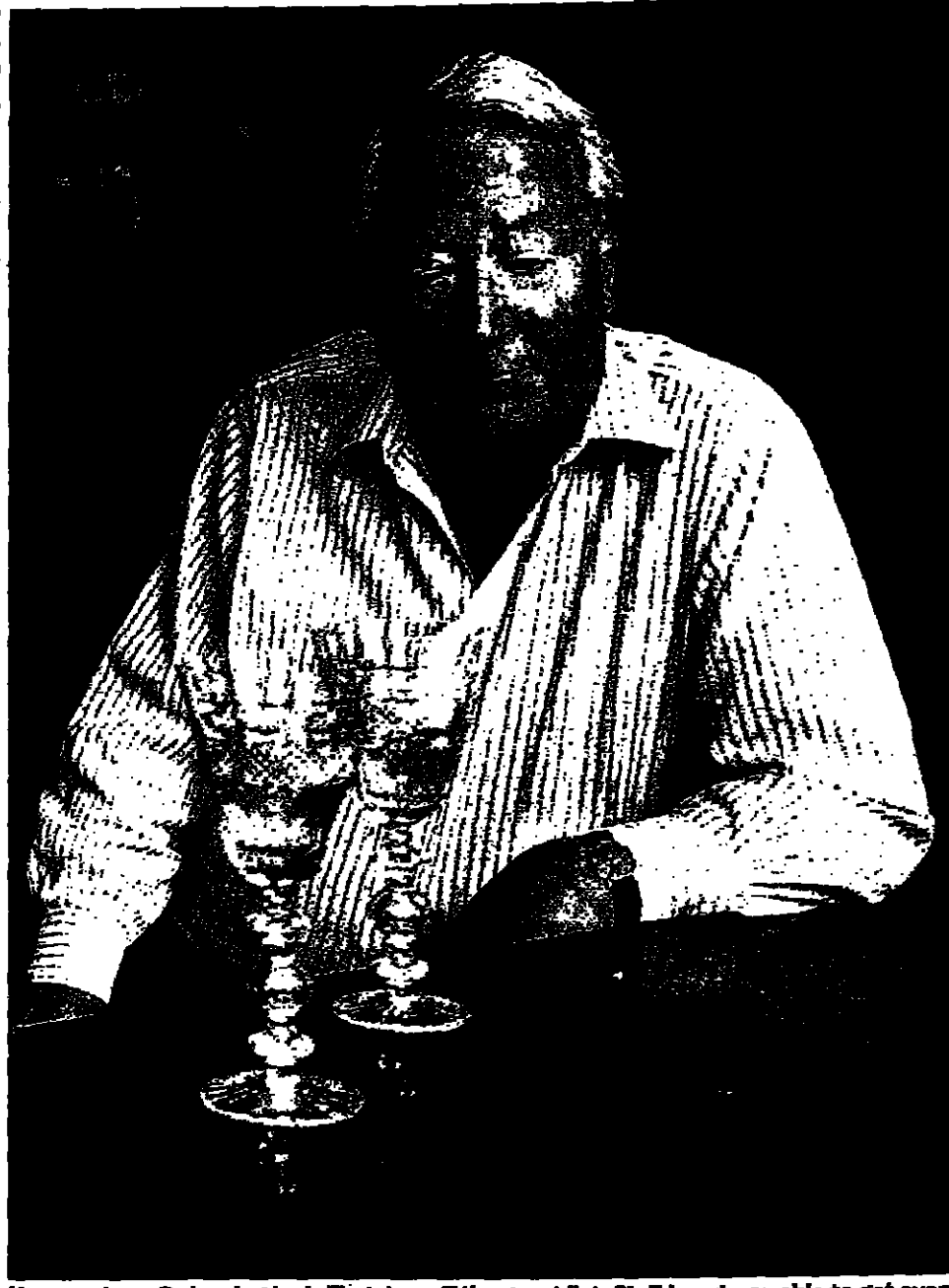
Lord Richard gave short shrift to an offer by Viscount Cranborne, Leader of the House and a Cabinet minister, to co-operate if a victorious Mr Blair were to set up a Commons select committee to examine reform of the Lords, instead of moving straight to end hereditary rights.

"I would be happy under those circumstances to recommend to your Lordships that we put our parliamentary privilege at the disposal of Another Place to the extent necessary to allow the select committee to do its work," said Lord Cranborne.

But Lord Richard dismissed the idea – made by someone who would in those circumstances be in opposition – as a "recipe for 'almost indefinite delay'". If the issue had been put to the people and accepted, he said, "is there not perhaps just a tinge of aristocratic superiority in the assumption that Lord Cranborne and his group know better than the people?"

Proving what Lord Cranborne called "the myth of the built-in Tory majority", Lord Richard said that in the 1989/90 session there were 172 Government victories in divisions and 12 defeats. If the votes of hereditary peers were excluded, there would have been 21 victories and 159 defeats. In the 15 years from 1979 to 1993 under the Conservatives, peers had defeated the Government on average 10 to 12 times a year. In the years 1974 to 1979 under Labour, the average was between 70 and 80 times a year.

But Lord Cranborne maintained that in an age when politics had become the preserve of professional politicians the "leaving" that the hereditary peerage provided was valuable. "So much so that any feelings of guilt seem to me misplaced."



Happy return: By leaving Lady Thatcher off the guest list, Sir Edward was able to get even

Time no healer as Heath delivers birthday snub

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The guest list for a month of celebrations for the 80th birthday of Sir Edward Heath will include the Queen, the Majors, and the former Labour Prime Minister, Lord Callaghan. But the one person missing from the VIP list is Baroness Thatcher.

Time has done nothing to heal the bad blood between Sir Edward and Lady Thatcher who replaced him as leader of the Conservative Party in 1975 and then refused to make him Foreign Secretary.

By refusing to invite Lady Thatcher to his 80th birthday celebrations, Sir Edward is getting even for her failure to invite him to her 70th birthday party.

Her absence will be most keenly felt at the high point of the celebrations, a dinner at 10 Downing Street on 17 July hosted by the Majors with the Queen and leading Conservative contemporaries from the Heath government, including Lord Carr and Lord Barber, two former chancellors of the Exchequer. "Thatcher didn't invite him to her 70th birthday. There is no way he is going to invite her to his," said one of Sir Edward's friends.

She will also be left off the guest list for a banquet for 400

guests at the Savoy on 18 July. The politicians at the gathering will include Lord Jenkins, the former SDP leader, and Lord Callaghan, the last Labour prime minister who was defeated by Lady Thatcher in 1979. James Moynihan, the past leader of the Ulster Unionists is also on the guest list, burying the hatchet over the abolition of the Stormont executive which led to a rift during Sir Edward's term of office. Euro-sceptics will be conspicuous by their absence.

The partying for Sir Edward's 80th birthday starts today with a concert that he will conduct in Wiesbaden, Germany. He will fly back for a party in his Old Bexley and Sidcup constituency tomorrow, organised by the Tory MP Bob Dunn.

The former prime minister will also conduct a gala concert at Salisbury Cathedral with the English Chamber Orchestra on 13 July, to be followed the next day by a luncheon at his home in the Cathedral Close for friends, including Peter Brooke, a former party chairman.

By coincidence, the state visit of President Nelson Mandela coincides with Sir Edward's birthday next Tuesday, and he has been invited to Buckingham Palace by the Queen for a state banquet. It was unclear whether Lady Thatcher would be there.

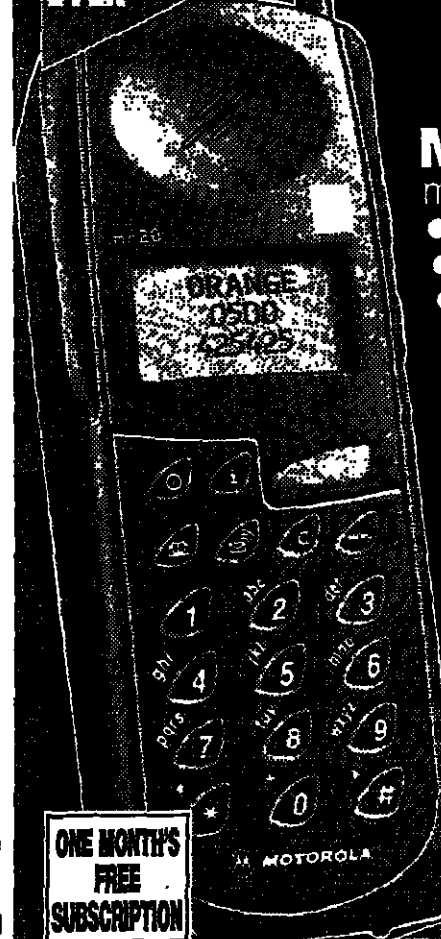
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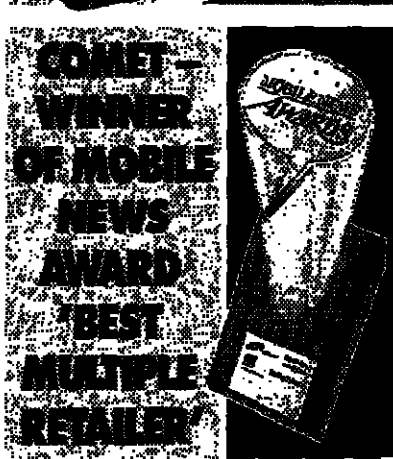
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Scots are looking for new answers to old questions

Now that the dust has settled over Labour's broken promise on Scottish devolution without recourse to a referendum, it appears Tony Blair has won the battle. But it is not all quiet on the northern front.

In Glasgow's Halt bar, just down the road from Labour's Scottish head office, one party worker drowns sorrows of disappointment by the pint said: "Sure, he's got away with it. But what can we do. There's too much invested in him. But Christ, what a can of worms he's opened up."

Today John Major goes to Dumfries to appear for the first time before the Scottish Grand Committee, set up by the Government as an attempt to head off demands for home rule.

In 1992, when Mr Major won the general election, Labour north of the border was a demoralised force. The Scottish constitutional convention, which had drawn up an agreed blueprint for the assembly, became a chain gang of cross-party idealists consigned for five more years of hard labour. It is

North of the border, anger at Blair could turn the nationalists into allies of the Tories. James Cusick reports

ironic that only days after Mr Blair denied them any hope of parole, John Major has taken pity and thrown them a rock. One insider at the Scottish Trades Union Congress office in Glasgow, still seeing red from the Labour leader's unilateral declaration, said: "Blair thought he'd spotted a weakness and dealt with it. But now he'll have to deal with everything that's been lying silent."

Labour senior officials in Scotland have now quietly arranged a series of tutorials to supply answers for the coming questions. While the official party effort will focus on a summer advertising campaign to sell the "double-yes" to the twin referendum and taxation issues, behind the hard sell will be panic that New Labour will need new answers to old questions. After 1992, activists from

Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish Nationalists formed Scotland United. It had one aim: to force a multi-option referendum that would ask the Scottish electorate did they want an assembly, full independence or the status quo? John Major ignored them and they fizzled away.

But Mike Russell, now the Chief Executive of the SNP and a founding United member said, simply he "wouldn't be playing on Blair's pitch". Outside the convention and outside the "double-yes" campaign, the Nationalists may find themselves in the awkward position of being allies of the Tories.

Behind both Blair's unilateralism and the Government's decision to hand back the Stone of Destiny after 700 years, lurks the figure of Mr Forsyth. Since he took office, he has turned the

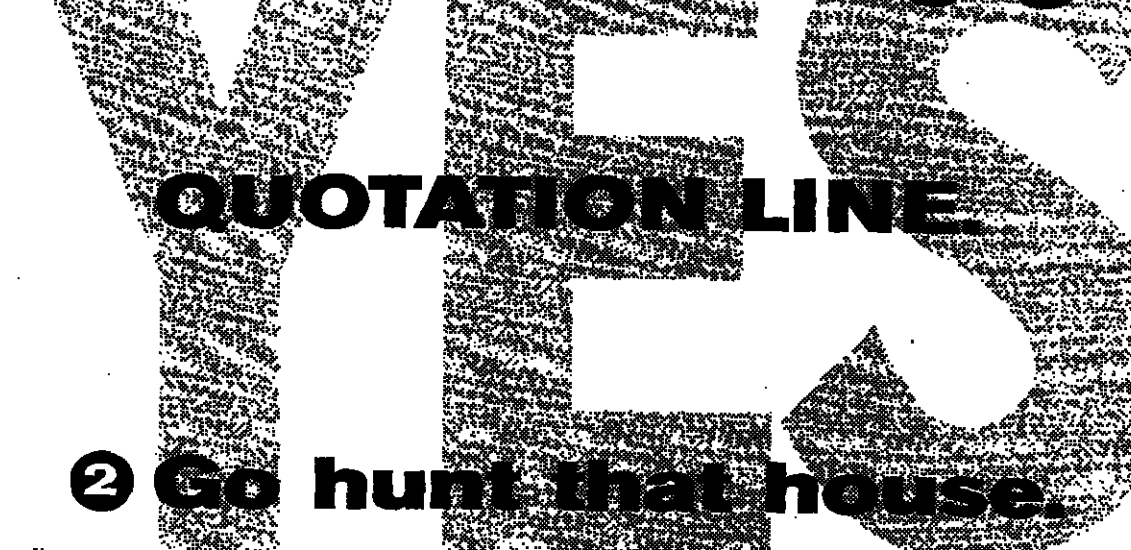
army of civil servants in the Scottish Office into his own campaigning team.

Without any real movement in the opinion polls, senior news executives at BBC Scotland are privately "rightfully impressed with Forsyth", believing he has "Labour on the run". If that information has travelled south Mr Blair may have thought he had to act quickly.

Mr Forsyth is clearly on a roll, first having opened up the tax debate and now with the Stone. Even the normally guarded Scotsman newspaper was yesterday talking of him as a future leader of the Tory party.

But doing the rounds among the Labour disappointed is a story that appears to show Mr Blair was right after all. It says Mr Forsyth was recently being praised by a journalist for his "tartan face" campaign. The journalist is alleged to have said: "Michael, you may well win this campaign". Mr Forsyth is said to have replied: "Christ, I hope not. Then I'd have nothing left to say".

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New opera chief moves into the brighter lights

DAVID LISTER

Genista McIntosh, at present executive director of the National Theatre, is to be the new chief executive of the Royal Opera House, as revealed in the *Independent* yesterday.

She will be the first woman to have run the Royal Opera House, and the first woman to lead any one of the four great national companies – the Royal Opera House, English National Opera, Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Few women have risen to the top in the arts administration in Britain, though large numbers of women work in arts companies. On the artistic side too, it is unusual to find high-profile international female directors such as Deborah Warner.

It is significant, however, that Ms McIntosh will not have the title of general director, enjoyed by Sir Jeremy Isaacs, nor will she have his remuneration. Her £90,000 salary will be £24,000 less than Sir Jeremy's and she will not have artistic control of the Royal Opera and Ballet companies, although

their directors, Nicholas Payne and Anthony Dowell, will report to her.

Keith Cooper, spokesman for the Royal Opera House, said the board had wished to distinguish between the artistic management and the "huge" job of running the organisation.

Ms McIntosh's departure from the National opens up another round of musical chairs as a replacement will have to be found for her. That replacement will work alongside the new artistic director of the National, Trevor Nunn, who succeeds Richard Eyre next year.

Among likely candidates to replace Ms McIntosh in running the financial, administrative and production side of the National are Ruth McKenzie, director of the Nottingham Playhouse, Nick Starr, a former senior producer at the National who has left to run Warwick Arts Centre, Mary Allen, secretary general of the Arts Council, and Carole Winter, West End producer and former senior executive with the English Shakespeare Company.

Ms McIntosh, who will join the Royal Opera House later this year, several months before Sir Jeremy retires, will find it a hotter potato than the National which has enjoyed artistic acclaim, relative financial stability and good labour relations in the past few years.

At the Royal Opera House more than 200 people will be made redundant when the House closes down for two years next summer. There is still a substantial financial deficit, and controversy over high ticket prices and the £78m lottery award for redevelopment. Jenny McIntosh, as she is known, is 49. Before working at the National she was casting

director and controller of planning at the Royal Shakespeare Company. Her ex-husband, Neil McIntosh, was director of Shelter and of Voluntary Service Overseas. She lives in north London with her two children.

Sir Angus Stirling, chairman of the Royal Opera House board, said: "The board is delighted to have found in Jenny McIntosh a successor to Sir Jeremy Isaacs who has exactly the right blend of artistic and managerial experience to lead the Royal Opera House through the forthcoming years of redevelopment and change."

Ms McIntosh said that the artistic reputation of the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet had never been higher and she looked forward to "the challenge of seeing the Royal Opera House through an invigorating period of change, into a new era in a new house".



Angel face: The finishing touches being put to restoration of the Victorian interior of the Lyceum Theatre in London's West End. The venue, which will reopen in November for its first live theatrical performance for 56 years, has been refurbished at a cost of £14m. Photograph: Philip Meech

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Bottomley acts to stop casket leaving Britain

LOUISE JURY

The Government stepped in yesterday to stop a 12th-century casket which might have held the remains of Thomas à Becket from leaving the country after a vociferous campaign to save it for the nation failed.

Amid speculation that the casket would otherwise have been on its way to North America, Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, immediately stepped in to block its export after its sale to an anonymous private collector for £4.18m yesterday.

Clinging the casket's history for her intervention, she has delayed any possible export until expert advice has been taken. The sale of the Becket Chalice, bought in the Seventies by British Rail Pension Fund, prompted fierce criticism that not enough was done to keep the gold and blue casket. David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, which mounted a publicity blitz to attract public support for the casket, said he was "bitterly disappointed".

The disappointment was compounded by a last-minute entrance into the bidding race by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, a national body with an annual £8m grant to save items for the nation.

The Memorial Fund bid £3.6m at yesterday's auction at Sotheby's in London, a sum which would have secured the

casket in advance of the sale. Mr Barrie said the pension fund trustees would have accepted £2.2m if it had been possible to raise such a sum.

Kathryn Long, investment director for the 250,000 pensioners, said they were absolutely delighted that the casket had made nearly three times its estimated price. The trustees had tried to be helpful to the museum, initially offering the casket to the British Museum, where it had been on loan. "The trustee board has a regulatory responsibility to do the best it can for its members," she said.

More recently Dr Alan Borg, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, made an appeal which brought a flood of public donations. Support from the National Art Collections Fund (NACF) and the Heritage Lottery Fund - which has the same trustees as the Memorial Fund - bought the total to £1.7m, but this was not enough.

Responding to the NACF criticisms, a Memorial Fund spokesman said it was a fund of last resort and a difficult precedent would have been set if it had stepped in earlier.

Lord Rothschild, the fund's chairman, said: "All the expert advice suggested that we should not have bid above the level at which the Chalice was sold. Much as though we would have liked to have acquired the casket, we felt that there must be price discipline with public money."

DAILY POEM

Song

By Edith Sitwell (set to music by Benjamin Britten)

*We are the darkness in the heat of the day,
The rootless flowers in the air, the coolness: we are the water
Lying upon the leaves before Death, our sun,
And in its vast heat has drunken us - Beauty's daughter,
The heart of the rose, and we are one.*

*We are the summer's children, the breath of evening, the days
When all may be hoped for - we are the unreturning
Smile of the lost one, seen through the summer leaves -
That sun and its false light scoring.*

After hearing the first performance of Britten's Canticle III, a setting of her poem *Still falls the rain*, Edith Sitwell was so moved and "haunted" that she agreed to Britten setting more of her work, including this one. It was first performed in June 1956 by Peter Pears, Dennis Brain and Britten in Aldeburgh Parish Church. It appears in *Canticle's inspired assembly of Benjamin Britten's Poems: An anthology of the poems he set to music* (£12.95) edited by Boris Ford.

Photograph: AP Photo/Oleg Nikishin

But Mr Zyuganov's extremism can be exaggerated. His economic proposals contained no mention of five-year plans or a return to the command economy. Still, many voters were susceptible to the Yeltsin camp's message, drummed home through the mainly pro-Yeltsin media, that Mr Zyuganov had only a superficial commitment to democracy and a mixed economy. Mr Zyuganov might have performed better had not the television media suppressed or distorted his message in what was perhaps the most biased election in the world's history [that] kind of force on our side ... there would have been no defeat," said Anatoly Lukyanov, the Communist former head of the Soviet parliament.

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Saddam has missiles and will use them

PATRICK COCKBURN

The last time general Wafiq al-Sammara'i, formerly head of Iraqi military intelligence, was in London was in 1987, at the height of the Iran-Iraq war. He came to pay money to an Iranian colonel in return for information about Iran's air force.

He returned last week, 18 months after he escaped from Baghdad, one of the highest-ranking officers ever to defect from the Iraqi regime. "Saddam Hussein thought I was conspiring against him and, though he had no firm evidence, his feeling was right," he says.

Interrogated twice, General Sammara'i fled to Kurdistan with his family, bringing the first detailed evidence that Iraq had been systematically deceiving the UN about its weapons of mass destruction. His claim that Saddam had a programme to manufacture anthrax and other biological and chemical weapons was later confirmed by Iraq to UN inspectors.

Sitting in an office overlooking Park Lane, General Sammara'i, a short, thick-set

man of 49, told the *Independent* that he thought Dr Rolf Ekeus, leader of the UN team supervising the destruction of Iraq's weapons, had made a mistake earlier this week in saying that Iraq may still be concealing between six and 16 long-range missiles.

"I believe Saddam has 40 missiles," he says. "He also has 255 containers of biological agents. In 230, the agent is in powder form, which has no expiry date, and in 25, it is in liquid form, which will deteriorate." He says he is 100 per cent positive of the information, which came from an informant close to Qusai, Saddam's second son who is in overall charge of Iraq's multitude of security agencies.

General Sammara'i believes Iraq also had a hand in the bombing at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, last week in which 19 Americans were killed. He says that in September 1990, just after the invasion of Kuwait, he was a member of an Iraqi committee in charge of sabotage operations against the allied forces massing in Saudi Arabia. He said that the committee, which



Saddam: family feuds have not weakened power

was never dissolved, considered bombing residential buildings of the US and other foreign military in Saudi Arabia.

The evidence of defectors is always suspect, because of the temptation to exaggerate. In a society as secretive as Iraq, stories are hard to check. But as head of military intelligence, General Sammara'i was in a position to know most of the secrets of the regime and his previous revelations about its biological and missile programmes have been largely confirmed by other sources.

In his account of his years in Iraqi intelligence, the main surprise is that he survived at all. Born in the city of Sammara'i, 70 miles north of Baghdad, in 1947, he joined the army when he was 18 and military intelligence in 1971. But it was during the Iran-Iraq war that his career prospered. He says: "We in military intelligence were very capable and we were never taken by surprise in 85 battles."

It is typical of the regime that as he was promoted, he was regarded with increasing suspicion. He says: "The regime did not trust me, because I had extensive contacts with the Kurds. From 1984, I was followed, but they needed me." The one piece of information he denies knowing was the decision to attack Kuwait in 1990.

In the aftermath of invasion, Saddam, apparently taken by surprise by the allied reaction, put him in charge of intelligence in Kuwait. But "they felt the way I was reporting things proved that I disapproved [of their policies]." Believing Saddam had decided to kill him, he planned his escape to Iraqi Kurdistan.

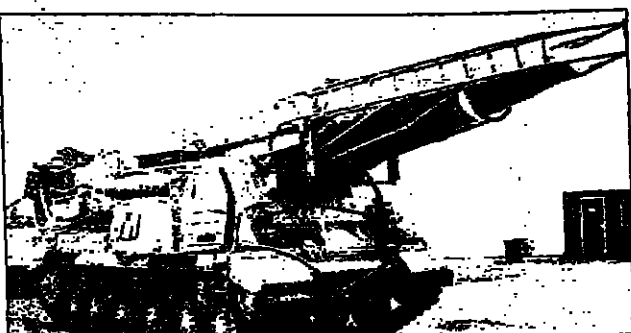
General Sammara'i does not believe that a military coup in Iraq stands much chance of success. The grip of Saddam and the intelligence services is too tight. His own proposal is for the opposition, in association with the Kurds, to start military operations against Saddam and look for massive defections from the Iraqi army. In March 1995 he tried to carry out this strategy with some success.

General Sammara'i is not confident that the latest round of in-fighting within Saddam's family will bring down the regime, nor does he expect the quarrels to stop. He says that Saddam's son, Uday, does not have any real power and that the family feuds do not necessarily weaken Saddam's hold on power.

On leaving Kurdistan last year General Sammara'i moved to Damascus, where he is com-



Higher intelligence: Iraqi defector General Sammara'i says Saddam will take his revenge Photograph: Philip Meech



Scud missile: Iraq may have a stockpile of 40 missiles

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international



Wall of colour: The Mongolian army guard of honour rehearsing for the inauguration of the Prime Minister in the capital, Ulan Bator. Photograph: AFP

Poland attempts to lay pogrom shame to rest

Adrian Bridge reports on a town's apology for the murder of 42 concentration camp survivors

Kielce — Ever since he was a boy, Cezary Stankowski has been haunted by the image of a heavily pregnant woman running away from an angry mob hurling sticks, rocks and bits of radiators at her.

The date was 4 July 1946 and the place, the southern Polish town of Kielce. By the end of the day, 42 people had been slaughtered and many more named in the most notorious of the wave of anti-Jewish pogroms that swept Poland in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War.

Aged just 11 at the time, Mr Stankowski watched in appalled fascination as the victims — many of them survivors of Nazi concentration camps — were clubbed or trampled to death.

"I remember the chants, 'Beat the Jew, kill the bloodsuckers', he said. 'I remember the pregnant woman lying in a pool of her own blood and the cries of a Jewish man killed while clinging to a tree.'

For decades the people of Kielce collectively tried to suppress the memory of the pogrom, claiming that instead of being fuelled by anti-Semitism, it had been provoked to serve some obscure political cause. Now, 50 years on, they are trying to acknowledge what really happened and, more controversially, to apologise for it.

Yesterday's 50th anniversary of the pogrom was marked by a solemn ceremony at the scene of the killings, while in Warsaw, MPs observed a minute's silence in honour of the dead.

On Sunday, for the first time ever, representatives of Jewish organisations from all over the world will be travelling to Kielce to take part in further commemorations alongside Polish Prime Minister Włodzisław Cimoszewicz.

After so many years of ill-will and recriminations, there is hope on both sides that the joint ceremony could mark a break with the past and a new start for Polish-Jewish relations.

Certainly, that is the aim in Warsaw, where the government has shown increasing sensitivity to Jewish concerns, underlined earlier this year by its swift action to block the proposed construction of a supermarket outside the former concentration camp at Auschwitz.

It is also the aim in Kielce, long ashamed of its reputation as an epicentre for Polish anti-Semitism. "Instead of trying to conceal the events of 50 years ago, we want them to be brought out into the open," said Tadeusz Wiacek, author of *To Kill The Jew*, one of the spate of books on the pogrom to have appeared since the end of communist rule in 1989. "Having admitted them, we now hope for some sort of reconciliation."

Of the three million Jews that

lived in Poland before the war, only 200,000 survived. Unbelievably, they soon found themselves targeted by Poles envious of their former prosperity.

In the first two years after the war, hundreds of Polish Jews were killed in anti-Semitic violence which reached its peak in Kielce. Half of those who remained emigrated to Palestine.

It is still far from clear what prompted the pogrom, but the initial spark was a rumour that an eight-year-old Polish boy had been kidnapped by a group of Jewish concentration camp survivors who had allegedly threatened to use him in a ritual sacrifice.

Despite glaring inconsistencies in the boy's story, an incensed crowd, including hundreds of steelworkers, gathered outside the hostel housing the Jews and broke in to begin an orgy of violence which was effectively left unchecked by the authorities for several hours.

So shocking were the killings, that, in a bid to cover them up, the town took refuge in a number of conspiracy theories, saying they had been provoked by Moscow, by the secret services, by anti-communist underground fighters, by international Zionists and even by the Vatican. None of the theories was ever proved, and throughout the communist period, the subject was simply taboo.

There are many in Kielce who would prefer to keep things that way. Some have piled abuse on those seeking to come clean about the past, while others have resorted to anti-Semitic graffiti.

But for many it is a relief that the lid has been lifted on the guilty secret they held so long.

"Only those with no conscience at all still want to deny the past," said Jadwiga Bedla, an activist in the Solidarity trade union. "It is an indisputable fact that innocent people were killed here and it is only right that we apologise. At last, after all these years, the truth has surfaced."

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SPORTS

The British Olympic team will be competing in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The team will be led by Lord Killin, who will also be the British Olympic representative at the opening ceremony.

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France faces a crisis of justice

Alain Juppé is trying to halt a major scandal, Mary Dejevsky reports

Paris — When, as yesterday, a staunchly pro-government newspaper devotes the whole of its opinion page to a defence of some fine interpretations of French law, and when the prime minister, as he did the previous evening, devotes part of a rare television interview to a defence of his country's judicial practice, something is afoot.

That something is an emergency attempt by the government to avert a full-blown crisis of public confidence in French justice, in particular in its capacity to judge those in power.

The problem is not new in France, where political and judicial power are linked by much more than any "old-boy" network and where the prime function of judges has been to uphold "Republican law".

Over the past week, however, the perpetually rumbling criticism of the influence of political figures on the judiciary has grown into an outcry.

The immediate cause was the decision by a Paris judge to drop a case involving accusations of misuse of public funds and nepotism against the Mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi.

The public fury that greeted that decision was matched by more considered anger and shouts of "political interference" from many lawyers after Parisian police refused to assist a judge's authorised search of Mr Tiberi's apartment.

The justice ministry denied interference. In France, though, a request does not need to be overt: everyone knows well how to anticipate the requirements of political power, on which their jobs could depend.

Mr Tiberi was deputy mayor for 12 of the 18 years that the present head of state, Jacques Chirac, was mayor. The Justice Minister, Jacques Toubon, who appoints both judges and state prosecutors and is in charge of the police force, is concurrently a city councillor and mayor of one of the capital's 20 districts. The Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, is a former deputy mayor or treasurer of Paris.

A poll commissioned by the *Parisien* newspaper and published yesterday showed the extent of public distrust of politicians and justice in Paris.

Some 56 per cent of those asked expressed "little or no confidence" in Mr Tiberi; 68 per cent thought council housing was allocated "according to political or personal considerations", and 64 per cent thought the judge was wrong to have dropped the Tiberi case.

Loïc Floch-Prigent, the head of the national railway company, SNCF, was yesterday called in for questioning by an investigating judge in connection

with allegations of corruption at Elf-Biderrmann, the company where he was director before moving to SNCF.

If Mr Floch-Prigent is placed under formal investigation, Mr Juppé was asked, would he be expected to resign?

"Everyone," replied Mr Juppé, "is innocent until proved guilty." In other words, no.

"Good justice must be equal for everyone and it must be dispassionate," said the Prime Minister on Wednesday night. He said it several times over.

That is all very well, responded an editorial in yesterday's *Le Monde*, but why is it that judges have to be reminded of these principles so often?

Part of the answer was on the screen for all to see.

The Prime Minister, being interviewed, narrowly avoided prosecution last winter for allocating select council flats to himself and his family while city treasurer.

The chief interviewer, Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, is appealing against his conviction for receiving favours — expensive suits and holidays — from an adviser to the former mayor of Lyons.

In such circumstances, French voters could, perhaps, be applauded for still being shocked enough to protest.



Eye spy: Awet Berhe, 11, and Yohannes Debesse, 7, playing on *Through Your Eyes*, a bronze sculpture by John Wesley Dobbs at the National Black Arts Festival 'A Celebration of Culture' held this week in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States. Photograph: AP/Atlanta Journal Constitution

Shannen Doherty waves to me and Johnny Depp tried to buy my house

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

When we want to titillate visitors with a taste of Hollywood, we take them down the hill to the Bar Marmont on Sunset Boulevard.

From the outside, it looks like a low wooden shack with peeling grey paint; the name scrawled carelessly on the fence at the front. Inside, it is a small room with closely-packed restaurant tables, comfortable cane arm chairs in an alcove and myriad butterflies pinned to the ceiling. They serve exquisitely expensive margaritas and

recommend a particularly smoky brand of tequila.

The bar is close by the Chateau Marmont hotel, a local pied-à-terre for film and music stars, cultivating a slightly shabby, off-beat feel.

The Bar Marmont's opening was marked by a rare honour — a story in the *New Yorker* magazine's "Talk of the Town" section. This month's *Travel and Leisure* magazine confirmed it is "the" bar in Los Angeles. If you want to mingle with the stars after dark, you are virtually guaranteed a sighting.

We go there early, before the crush and the queue of cars at

L.A. DAYS

the valet parking. The first time, a starlet from the film *The Mask* was doing a photo-shoot, twisting and wriggling at the bar for the photographer while the staff looked on approvingly.

I once took the entertainment correspondent of *The Scotsman*, who had just been to the Academy Awards for *Braveheart*, wearing a kilt. In a flash of brilliance, he spotted one of the Monkees in the corner. On the way out, we nearly bumped into Christopher Walken.

In Hollywood, there is the A list, and then there is the rest of us looking on. Occasionally, people swap sighting stories. Unfortunately, neither I nor my wife are very good at celebrities. Either we don't recognise them in time, or we don't know who they are. In The Source restaurant, a cheery place just along from the Chateau, my wife saw a man who looked like a slightly pudgy, pudgy hairdresser. It was Fabio, the cover model of the paperback romance

Johnny Depp once offered to buy the house we now rent, along with several others on the same street. It overlooks his three-acre estate and a 20-room turreted faux chateau, a pre-war building in the same style as the Chateau Marmont.

He is a stickler for privacy. Having failed to buy the surrounding homes, ostensibly for some of his relatives, he built an eight foot high fence of welded industrial-grade steel around the estate, with thick green bushes to obscure the view. Neighbours complained and his managers had to take a foot or two off in places.

Shannen Doherty waved to me cheerily last week. I was plodding up the hill, unkempt, sweaty, pushing our daughter's stroller. Shannen came swooshing down at the wheel of her heavy black Mercedes, her car phone pressed to her ear.

Shannen is an absolutely certified star. She lives near us in the Hollywood hills, and has such a reputation that at the mere mention of her, people's faces sour as if they've bitten on a lemon.

So far, she hasn't lived up to it. She doesn't even play loud music, though her boyfriend's dog trapped us inside our house

one day, growing nastily. We babysat her Alsatian once, when the dog taxi dropped it off early. Shannen became famous as a teen vixen in *Beverly Hills 90210*, so I wonder if her reputation has rubbed off on real life.

On Saturdays, the tourists come past, because Shannen is on the front page of the maps to the stars' homes they sell down on Sunset.

Her friends all drive expensive black cars, Jeeps and Mercs, and they slide past the kitchen window after supper while we're washing up — on the way to the Bar Marmont, presumably, or some other celebrity magnet.



Cheerful: '90210' star Shannen Doherty

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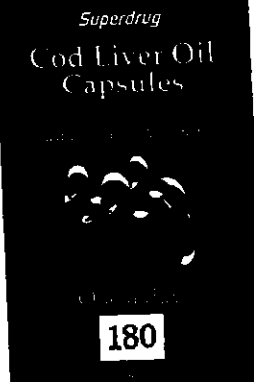
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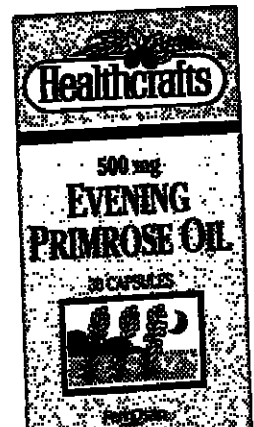
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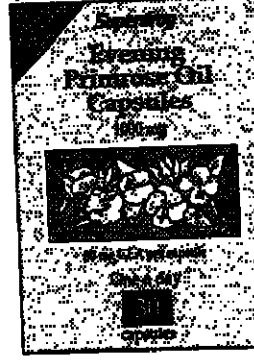
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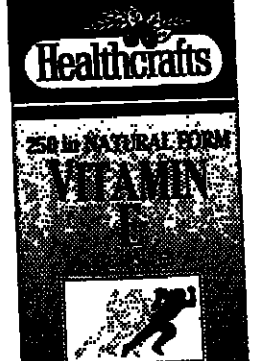
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Clay Jones

A gardening expert needs many of the qualities of a family doctor: a sympathetic ear, a depth of knowledge and experience lightly worn, a manner that is reassuring without being bristly dismissive of anxiety. Like the patient, the gardener should feel better for the consultation, even if it offers no instant cure. Clay Jones had all these attributes, and for more than 30 years he deployed them in books and articles, on television and, most memorably, at lunchtime on Sundays on BBC Radio 4.

He had the ideal radio voice, a gravelly Welsh drawl lightened by what his long-time producer, Diana Stenson, calls "a lovely dark brown laugh". It was so distinctive that his wife Gileys — they met at school and were childhood sweethearts — imposed a vow of silence on him when they were out shopping together. Otherwise, as soon as he opened his mouth, he would be

surrounded by supplicants seeking a cure for the club root in their cabbages.

He was not born Clay; nor, as many believed, did he assume the name to advertise his horticultural credentials. His given name was David, but when he went to Cardigan Grammar School in 1935 he found at least a dozen David Joneses had got there before him — so he called himself by his mother's maiden name.

Gardening was part of his life from boyhood, which he spent on his parents' smallholding. In 1942, at the age of 18, he joined the army, becoming a captain, and in the last years of the Second World War served in Burma. On his return he took a degree in Botany and Economics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, then spent a year working in the college's botanic garden. After a short spell as a gardener he joined Bees' seed company and

then Cuthberts, where he was Director from 1959 to 1977.

Meanwhile he was developing a career in broadcasting. In 1960 he helped launch a Welsh-language gardening programme for BBC Wales, and during the Sixties he appeared occasionally on television with the redoubtable Percy Thew. In 1976 he was invited to join the panel of *Gardeners' Question Time* by Ken Ford, who was then doubling as producer and chairman.

The programme was passing through a tricky period, with the gradual break-up of the long-standing and popular team of Fred Lows, Bill Sowerbutts and Professor Alan Gammell. Lows had died and Jones was to replace him as the expert on vegetables. He made several broadcasts alongside Sowerbutts and Gammell before they too had to give up and others came into the team, including Stefan Buczacki, Geoffrey Smith and Daphne Ledward.

Although the programme's trade mark has always been a relaxed and cheerful spontaneity, the panel have to endure a gruelling production schedule, going on the road for two or three days every three weeks, making for obscure village halls in remote areas, staying in hotels of uncertain quality. They have to like each other, and be of an easy-going and tolerant disposition. Mannerisms are quickly spotted; one of Jones's was that he always took along home-grown tomatoes in season, and would solemnly slice them over his breakfast ham.

Before each recording, the team seek to relax the audience by telling a joke. Jones always told the same one, about the secretary of a horticultural society who had an affair with a member — slightly risqué but ultimately inoffensive, as was to be expected from a devout churchgoer.

In 1985 Ken Ford died, so the programme had quickly to find a new producer and a new chairman. Diana Stenson came from *Woman's Hour* to fill the first role and, at Buczacki's suggestion, Jones assumed the chair. It was a seamless transfer. After a few weeks he seemed to have been doing it all his life, and at the same time he was shepherding the new producer into the mysteries of gardening. "He was an absolute gent," she recalls. Says Buczacki: "He gave the programme a sense of reassurance and timelessness. He could always see the funny side of gardening."

His tenure ended abruptly in 1993. Early that year the BBC, as part of a corporate policy encouraged by the Government, decided to put several long-established programmes out to tender from independent producers. There were rumours of new voices being brought in, of gimmicky attempts to attract

younger listeners. In July, soon after recording a programme, Jones suffered a mild heart attack. He quickly recovered but decided that, in view of the uncertainty, it was a good time to give it up. The rest of the old team, led by Stenson and Buczacki, decamped to Classic FM a few months later, and Jones gave an uncharacteristically angry interview to the *Daily Mail*, attacking the BBC's decision.

He continued to write and broadcast occasionally, but had more time to spend on his own free garden, which he had created on a difficult sloping site outside his 16th-century cottage near the Severn at Chepstow.

Michael Leapsman

David (Clay) Jones, gardening writer and broadcaster: born Cardigan 6 November 1923; OBE 1994; married twice, one daughter; died Chepstow, Monmouthshire 3 July 1996.



A lovely dark brown laugh: Jones on *Gardeners' Question Time*, 1981.



Often cited as a classic supporting actor: Abbott, with Michael Caine in *Gambit*, 1976

Photograph: The Kobal Collection

John Abbott

With his wide, slightly bulging eyes, drooping lower lip and clipped diction, John Abbott was one of the screen's most distinctive character actors and one of its finest.

A veteran of dozens of performances on stage, screen and television, the British-born actor had a solid background in the theatre before establishing himself as a Hollywood reliable, creating a gallery of often small but memorable roles. His portrayals in *Jane Eyre* (1943) and *The Woman in White* (1947) are often cited when classic supporting performances are discussed.

Born in London in 1905, he was a commercial artist when he substituted for a sick friend in an amateur production which was then by the actress Sybil Thorndike, who remarked, "Now there is a young man who knows how to make an entrance!" His entrance into the professional theatre came in a London revival of *Aurengzeb* (1934). Then, after repertory in Watford and Crewe, he was asked by Tyrone Guthrie to join the Old Vic in 1936; the period that followed, including

roles as Nathaniel in *Love's Labour's Lost* and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, he considered the high-point of his career.

In 1937 he was part of the legendary production of *Hamlet* performed in Elnore with Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh, along with Alec Guinness as Osear and Anthony Quayle as Laertes. The cold winds and teeming rain that dogged the company gave added resonance to Claudius's line, delivered by Abbott, umbrella in hand, "Is there not rain enough in the sweet heavens?"

He made his film debut in *Conquest of the Air* (1935) and was in an early BBC television production, *The Hamfistness of Tobacco* in 1937, but concentrated on theatre prior to the outbreak of war, when he was attached to the British Embassy in Stockholm, his work involving coding and decoding.

In 1941 he was in California and about to return to England when he was offered a role in *Shanghai Gesture*. It was the start of a prolific screen career that included roles in *Mrs Miniver* (1942), *The London Blackout*

Murders (1942, a rare leading role) and memorably in *Jane Eyre* as the half-mad brother of the first Mrs Rochester. In *The Vampire's Ghost* (1945) he had the leading role as a sympathetic vampire and the following year made his Broadway debut in *He Who Gets Slapped*.

The 1946-47 period was a prime one for Abbott in Hollywood — he was a member of the court in *Anna and the King of Siam* (1946), a cellist indignant when Bette Davis tries to bribe him in *Deception* (also 1946), and best of all, his snivelling, asthmatic Frederick Fairlie, uncle of twin sisters in *The Woman in White* (1948).

Abbott's performance in *The Woman in White* prompted Warners to offer him a long-term contract but he turned it down, preferring to divide his time between Hollywood and Broadway. In 1944 Tennessee Williams had written a one-act play *Auto-da-Fé* (his only verse play) for Abbott. Other Broadway appearances included *Lillian Hellman's Mommie* (1948) and Jean Anouilh's *The Waltz of the Toreadors* (1957).

Abbott worked steadily until 1987, his films including *Madame Bovary* (1949), *Gigi* (1958) as Chevalier's valet, *Gambit* (1967), and *The Jungle Book* (1967) as the voice of one of the wolves, and his prolific television work including *The Man from Uncle*, *Bewitched*, and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. Then he retired, stating: "I haven't the slightest urge ever to work again." He remained active socially and pursued his interests in art and music.

In 1944 he had been offered a leading role on Broadway in *Mary Chase's Harvey*, but argued that the writer was wrong to have the play's imaginary six-foot rabbit visible on stage and left the production. Later Chase followed his advice. When asked about missing this chance of stardom, Abbott maintained he had no regrets: "My goal was always simply to do good work without having to run about looking for jobs."

Tom Vallance

John Abbott, actor: born London 5 June 1905; died Los Angeles 24 May 1996.

Edgar Milne-Redhead

Edgar Milne-Redhead, the botanist and pioneer plant conservationist, was working on his project to re-establish the black poplar with characteristic enthusiasm until a few days before his death.

For 20 years he researched records of the black poplar, now one of the rarest trees in the country, but once common along river valleys. Male and female flowers are borne on separate trees so that both sexes need to be present, the female downwind, and mud flats need to be exposed long enough for the seedlings to become established. These conditions are now rare. Milne-Redhead established a network of nurseries to grow plants from cuttings and advertised them wherever he could. He recently persuaded a local council to put in a roundabout to preserve an isolated tree.

A love of plants was well established in Edgar Milne-Redhead's family. His grandfather, Richard Redhead, had established a fine garden at Holden Clough, near Clitheroe. His father, George Bertram, was also a keen gardener. Of his cousins, Humphrey became an expert on mosses and Richard set up an alpine garden nursery. In 1920 the family moved from Frodo to Cheltenham, where Edgar went to the College as a day-boy, explored the countryside and helped to build up an interesting collection of plants in his father's garden.

In 1925 he went to Cambridge and read Natural Sciences, taking a particular interest in Botany and gaining a half-blue for rifle-shooting. Being bad at exams, he decided not to take Part II of the Tripos and applied instead for a post at Kew.

There was no immediate vacancy so in October 1928 he accepted an unpaid post for a few months, and was soon appointed a Temporary Technical Assistant, working successfully on the plants of Europe, Canada and Fiji.

The turning point in his career came in March 1930 when Kew's Director, Sir Arthur Hill, offered to second him to the Colonial Office to assist with a scheme for an aerial survey of what is now Zambia. He was based in the Mwinilunga District for four and a half months, during which time he made a remarkable collection of plants,

beautifully preserved and with meticulous field notes. He was then employed with the Empire Marketing Board and joined the official Kew staff when the Board closed down in 1935.

The following year he succeeded Dr John Hutchinson as Head of the Tropical African Section of the Herbarium, a position he held until 1939. In 1937 he returned to the farm of Captain and Mrs K.R. Paterson in Mwinilunga, an area rich in unusual, little known plants, and spent four and a half months collecting in the first half of the rainy season before he was frustratingly summoned back to Kew for no apparent reason.

On the mobilisation of the Air Defences in August 1939 Milne-Redhead, who had been commissioned in the Territorial Army in 1925 and served for 10 years with the 30th (Surrey) Searchlight Battalion, Royal Engineers, was called up. He became a gunner in August 1940, when the searchlight units were transferred to the Royal Artillery and in November was drafted to West Africa where he rose to the rank of Temporary Major, collecting a few plants along the way.

In early 1942 he was posted back to England to become a Sector Searchlight Control Officer, working with RAF Fighter Command on night interception of enemy raiders. This left plenty of daylight hours to explore the countryside around Dunstable and behind notable local amateur naturalists such as John Dony. He helped set up the Bedfordshire Natural History Society and inspired two friends from this period, Peter Taylor and Bernard Verdoncort, to join him at Kew in later years.



Milne-Redhead: black poplars

After the war Milne-Redhead returned to Kew, becoming a Principal Scientific Officer in 1946 and building up the Tropical African Section of the Herbarium. He masterminded the Colonial Office programme to start a Flora of Tropical Africa in 1949 and run a series of major expeditions to the region. He also set up a network of amateur collectors, who were cajoled to send in many thousands of plant specimens by his unflinching correspondence.

In 1949 he joined with Arthur Exell of the Natural History Museum and Professor Jean Leonard of Brussels to found the "Association pour l'Etude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique tropicale" (AET-FAT), which still flourishes as an informal forum for the exchange of ideas and initiatives between botanists interested in the region. Six years later he undertook a major expedition with Peter Taylor to the little-known Songea District in the south-east corner of Tanzania. The eight months work resulted in over 5,000 impeccably prepared collections including many species new to science.

In 1959 Milne-Redhead was promoted to Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium and Editor of the *Kew Bulletin*, posts he held until his retirement in 1971. He wrote relatively few scientific papers, but in each prose and illustrations were honed to perfection. He did much further preparatory work annotating collections and accumulating artwork that was generously made available to his protégés. He revitalised the standards of the *Kew Bulletin* and was a stickler for detail.

As an administrator he was authoritarian in a military style and made short shrift of the disorder and pretensions of his more academic colleagues. He had a quick temper, but bore no grudges and made a point of friendly reassurance to miscreants at the next encounter. His integrity, hospitality, loyalty to Kew and support to his staff were legendary.

From his earliest days there he took part keenly in botanical forays with his colleagues.

Kenneth Ayr Shaw was one of these and introduced Milne-Redhead to his sister Olive; they were married in 1933. Between 1954 and 1960 Milne-Redhead participated actively in the mapping scheme that produced the

Atlas of the British Flora in 1962. He was a leading campaigner in 1964-67 on the Wesdale Appeal Committee, led by the Botanical Society of the British Isles (he was its oldest living member, having joined in 1929), to save Cow Green from flooding as a reservoir, and founded the Cypripedium Committee to look after Britain's sole remaining lady's slipper orchid and organise the annual scrub clearance to preserve orchids on the Oving scarp.

He was in the vanguard of the British conservation movement, as an Associate of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation (now the Wildlife Trust) from 1948, and a founder member of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. He was on the Standing Committee of "The Country-side in 1970", the third of a series of conferences championed by the Duke of Edinburgh to assess land use and environmental responsibilities. Edward Heath attended and the Department of the Environment was set up shortly afterwards.

His last campaign at Kew was to persuade the new Director, Professor Heslop-Harrison, to set up a Conservation Unit in 1972. This enabled Kew to participate in the First Meeting of the Parties of the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Washington in 1973 and was the seed for the major role that Kew now has in world conservation.

His particular contribution was to advocate a scientific approach to conservation, exemplified by his early work on the small Badsworth Nature Reserve in Gloucestershire, set up to preserve *Ranunculus ophioglossifolius*. He noticed that the rare buttercup was coming up best where people trod and so recommended letting cattle back into the pasture to disturb the ground.

In his retirement Edgar Milne-Redhead worked assiduously for the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (as he had for the Surrey Wildlife Trust while at Kew), and gained much pleasure from his campaign for the replanting of the black poplar.

Roger Pothill

Edgar Milne-Redhead, botanist and plant conservationist: born Frome, Somerset 24 May 1906; MBE 1996; married 1933 Olive Shaw (one daughter); died Colchester 29 June 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

BARRINGTON-WARD: Diana Beatrice Eleanor, aged 95 years, on 28 June 1996, at Sutton Very House Nursing Home, Warrington, Cheshire. Much loved wife of the late John and mother of Jane and John. Funeral private. No flowers please, but donations, if wished, to the Maudslayi Trust for the Encouragement of Young Gardeners. The Flower House, Broughton House, Kettering, Northants, NN16 1BJ.

Announcements for Births, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding announcements, In Memoriams) should be sent to writing to the Gazette Office, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-253 2811 (answering machines 0171-253 2812) or faxed to 0171-253 2810, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen opened the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. The Queen Mother opened the launch of the new Air Sea Rescue launch No 102 at the Royal Naval School of Maritime Operations at HMS Ganges, Gosport. The Queen and Prince Charles visited the Royal Naval School of Maritime Operations at HMS Ganges, Gosport. The Queen and Prince Charles visited the Royal Naval School of Maritime Operations at HMS Ganges, Gosport.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounted the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Whitehall, 11.30am, head provided by the Household Cavalry.

Birthdays

Sir Anthony Battisill, chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, 59; Dame Joyanne Bracewell QC, High Court judge, 62; Mr Mark Cox, tennis player, 53; Sir Douglas Dods-Parker, former MP 87; Mrs Elizabeth Emanuel, royal dressmaker, 43; Mr Peter Farnham, civil engineer, 81; Mr Anthony Goodenough, High Commissioner to Canada, 55; Sir Michael Hamilton, former MP 78; Mr David Hanson MP 39; Mr Ralph Kesteven, managing director, Gerald Metals, 67; Mr Philip Madoc, actor, 62; M Pierre Mauroy, former French prime minister, now Mayor of Lille, 68; Maj Gen Sir Jeremy Moore, defence consultant and former commander, Land Forces, Falkland Islands, 68; Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive, Bass plc, 53; Mr George Rothery, composer, 78; The Right Rev James Rumbold, Assistant Bishop, Liverpool, 75; Sir John Ure, author, company director and former diplomat, 65; Tony van den Bergh, writer and broadcaster, 80.

Anniversaries

Births: Luke Hansard, printer of Hansard, 1752; Mrs Sarah Siddons (Kemble), actress, 1755; William Crotch, composer and musical prodigy, 1775; Charles Alfred Stothard, antiquarian draughtsman, 1786; George Henry Borrow, author and linguist, 1803; Robert Fitzroy, admiral and hydrographer, 1805; Phineas Taylor Barnum, showman, 1810; Agnes Zimmermann, pianist and composer, 1846; Cecil John Rhodes, colonial developer and politician, 1853; Edmond Herriot, statesman and writer, 1872; Dwight Filley Davis, statesman and founder of the Davis Tennis Cup, 1879; Jean Cocteau, poet, novelist and artist, 1889; Georges Pompidou, president of

France, 1911. Deaths: Ernst Theodor Wilhelm Amadeus Hoffmann, author, artist and composer, 1822; Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore, 1826; Jules-Adolphe Aimé-Louis Breton, painter, 1906; Walter Adolph Gropius, architect, 1909; Gertrude Heyer, novelist, 1974. On this day the Parliamentarians were defeated by the Royalists at the Battle of Lansdowne, 1643; George Hammond, the first British ambassador to the United States, was appointed, 1791; the gold sovereign coin was first issued, 1817; the travel agents Thomas Cook and Son were founded when the first excursion train was run from Leicester to Loughborough, 1841; the Salvation Army was founded, when William Booth held the first open-air Christian Mission at Mile End, London, 1865; after the General Election, the Labour Party received its first absolute majority, 1945; the National Health Service came into operation, 1948. Today is Twelfth Day, Isle of Man and the Feast Day of St Anthony-Mary Zaccaria and St Athanasius the Atholite.

Lectures

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Olympians (I): studio of Titian, Venus and Adonis", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Jean Schofield, "The Decoration of Floors and Walls (I)", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: David Cohen, "Leon Rossello: David Bomberg and Frank Auerbach", 1pm.

Receptions

Westminster Foundation for Democracy
The Speaker, Miss Betty Boothroyd, hosted a Summer reception yesterday evening for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy at Speaker's House, London SW1.

day evening for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy at Speaker's House, London SW1. The Speaker, Sir James Spiller MP, Chairman of the Foundation, and Mr Stephen Cox, Chief Executive, received the guests.

Dinners

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth was in the chair at a Foundation for Science and Technology dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Solent Hotel, Southampton, following a technology visit to the New Swanwick Centre, Southampton. Mr Derek McLachlan and Mr Gordon Doggett spoke on "Taking Air Traffic Control into the next Century".

British Academy

Sir Keith Thomas, President, British Academy, was in the chair at the 94th Annual General Meeting of the Academy held yesterday at the Academy's headquarters in Cornwall Terrace, London NW1. Mrs Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, was the principal guest and speaker at the Annual Dinner held afterwards at the Middle Temple Hall, London EC4.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.05pm. United Synagogues: 0171-387 4300. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-584 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4721. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

Coroner entitled to sit with expert assessor

LAW REPORT

5 July 1996

Regina v HM Coroner for Surrey, ex parte Wright; Queen's Bench Division (Mr Justice Tucker) 14 June 1996

A coroner was entitled to invite an expert of some kind to sit with him at an inquest if he considered it necessary having regard to the technical nature of the evidence to be considered. The assessor might ask questions of other witnesses, but he should not give evidence as a witness himself.

Mr Justice Tucker refused an application by Irene Wright for judicial review against the Coroner for Surrey, who on 13 October 1994 concluded that the applicant's son, Vassell Wright, had died by accident.

The deceased died at Ashford General Hospital after being given a general anaesthetic for minor surgery to remove his wisdom teeth. He never regained consciousness. The cause of death was cerebral necrosis due to cerebral anoxia.

The applicant complained, *inter alia*, that the coroner sat with an assessor, Dr Zideman, a consultant anaesthetist, as an advisor on anaesthetic and resuscitation procedures, and invited him to ask questions of witnesses and to give evidence and then to assist him in making his decision, contrary to the rules of natural justice.

Raymond Croun QC and Delphine Breeze-Laughton (JR Jones, Ealing) for the applicants; Ian Burnes (Surrey County Council) for the coroner.

Mr Justice Tucker said that there was no express provision in the Coroners Act 1988 for the coroner to sit with an assessor. It was well recognised that High Court judges from time to time sat with assessors, pursuant to section 70 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Section 63 of the County Courts Act 1984 enabled a judge in a county court to summon to his assistance one or more persons to sit with him as assessors. But in the absence of any express provision in the Coroners Act, did a coroner have a general power to sit with an assessor?

The coroner in his affidavit said it was a relatively common practice in difficult technical cases. He had done so himself on perhaps a dozen occasions. An inquest was an inquisitorial proceeding without parties, and the coroner could not rely on the attendance of lawyers to ask searching questions of witnesses.

Mr Burnett's researches showed that as long ago as 1876

coroners were sitting with assessors. He cited the case of *R v Carter*, 34 LT 849, concerning an inquest in which an assessor clearly took part. Both the textbooks on this subject, *Thurston's Coronership* (3rd edn, para 16.16) and *Jarvis on Coroners* (11th edn, para 12.17), recognised the practice.

In his Lordship's judgment, what was the established practice at least 120 years ago remained so today, and it was entirely possible for a coroner to call for the assistance of an assessor to sit with him if he considered it necessary having regard to the technical nature of the evidence which might have to be considered. The present case fell into that category and the coroner was justified in sitting with an assessor.

But what role should the assessor play in the proceedings? Was it wrong to allow him to examine witnesses and to give evidence himself? Rule 20(2)(b) of the Coroners' Rules 1984 gave the coroner a wide discretion to allow anyone to question witnesses. His Lordship doubted whether the rule was framed with assessors in mind. Nevertheless, it was wide enough to include

an assessor and it would unnecessarily curtail his functions, and hence the value of his assistance to the coroner, if he were prevented from asking any relevant questions of a witness giving technical evidence, provided this was done under the coroner's control and was restricted to matters within the assessor's special experience. In his Lordship's judgment there could be no objection to the assessor asking the questions which he had asked in the present case.

However, the role of the assessor should not extend to his giving expert evidence. There was a danger that it might appear, whether justifiably or not, that the evidence of such a witness might attract the special confidence of the coroner, and might carry greater weight than would otherwise be the case. It was better that the roles of assessor and expert witness should be kept apart.

However well intentioned, the coroner fell into error in allowing Dr Zideman to fulfil both these functions. But as his Lordship was not persuaded that it would have made any material difference to the outcome, it was neither necessary nor desirable to order a fresh inquest.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

الجمهورية

the leader page

Church and state would be better off divorced

Parliament, said a bishop pugnaciously during a recent Church of England conclave, is "not Christian, not theological and not accountable for its decisions". But how odd it would be if Parliament were Christian. Latter-day Britain, for all our growing anxiety about morality, is a godless nation where newspaper columnists outdo Savonarola in damning popular infidelity while most citizens get on perfectly well without the benefit of clergy. But even odder is the way that unchristian Parliament, or at least its House of Commons, goes on spending hours of precious time earnestly debating the minutiae of the property and pensions arrangements of a church attended regularly by a tiny handful of the people.

Why, for example, is Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, getting so worked up about the pension arrangements of curates, rural deans and assistant bishops? They are not state employees. It is because as Anglican clergy they are employees of the state church and in receipt of money which once clearly belonged to the state; so MPs feel fully entitled to get involved in their current financial arrangements. But it is odd, even so. Whether the Church Commissioners are trustworthy trustees is not the issue (as an outfit they deserve the toughest regulatory scrutiny). It's why these MPs are not equally concerned with the retirement income of rabbis or property disposals by the United

Reformed Church – indeed why they are concerned with any church business at all. If the Church, as a voluntary organisation, is beset by waste and mismanagement that is a matter for its members, not for Members.

But we are now plunging headlong into the thicket of history and statute, custom and practice (very little theory) that is the British Constitutional settlement, in the centre of which, entangled by old briars, squats the Established Church. Cutting our way through it is hard work but timely: no less than the Prime Minister says this jungle is no longer out of bounds. John Major has deliberately raised the stakes in the argument over devolution by asserting, in his strangely mystical way, that "the fate of the nation" is bound up with the fate of the constitution. If so, this means that the constitution, in all its parts, is fit to be argued over and rethought.

The case for disestablishment is hardly new and no less compelling for being bewildered. William Gladstone tossed backwards and forwards on the issue. The political Establishment accepted its logic when the Churches of Ireland and Wales lost their official status after campaigns by Catholics and dissenters. The Church of England's standing as the state church is not logical or unchallengeable; it is another example of the inertia surrounding decisions by the House of Commons about its own position in the body politic.



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It is important to remember that constitutional change is happening all the time: the position of the executive in Parliament has been altered in recent years, ditto that of the permanent civil service. MPs collude in these changes, but because they rarely provoke a formal vote they are not seen for what they are – significant alterations in the balance of powers in the state.

Change likewise occurs in Anglican attitudes. Long ago, that church became in effect self-governing – barring these occasional eruptions of parliamentary interest. The religious denomination of the chief officer of

church patronage – the Prime Minister – has not mattered for a long, long time: those who make a fuss about the possible arrival in Number Ten of a Roman Catholic ignore the fact that Parliament and the Anglican establishment proscribed dissent for almost as long as Catholicism. That didn't stop Harold Wilson, a Methodist, exercising the nosy interest all inhabitants of Number Ten take in church matters.

Apart from Downing Street's liking for patronage and sheer inertia, are there any other constitutional barriers against outright disestablishment? There is the position of the monarchy.

But the divorcing Prince Charles has made it as clear as he can that he is not keen on taking up the job of head of the Church of England, and rightly so. Then there is the bench of bishops in the House of Lords. Defenders of the status quo argue that you cannot disestablish without reforming the Lords. Quite so, we say, attack on all fronts, even if that involves some heavily defended ermine-lined dug-outs. But who is to lead the charge? It turns out, mysteriously, there are no runners in this race. Labour has steered clear of committing itself.

This is not because Labour buys the argument that establishment maintains a link between public morality and private beliefs. That argument is anyway faulty – if it implies that established Christianity is a source of moral inspiration in politics, something there are no evidence. It also implies there are no moralities other than the Christian – something which few people would now accept, and Labour certainly wouldn't. No, we fear that Labour is passive on the link with the Church of England because it is a bother to undo it. Because inertia wraps its lazy coils around the whole ivy-clad, gothic-windowed issue.

And it is true that disestablishment is no life or death issue, except perhaps for the integrity of the House of Commons. The British state and the Anglican church will stagger on into the 21st century without it. But in a modest way,

it matters. These big institutions should be free of one another to pursue their own destinies. Without disestablishment there can be no complete reform of the House of Lords, no real shake-up of the Church, no proper alignment of the institutions of government with the lives and interests – and moral dispositions – of British citizens. No Bishop, no King, said James I and VI, as a way of protecting his power structure. Today it's more like, no disestablishment, no full political reform.

Natural born painkillers

Plenty of first time mothers want to give birth naturally. At least until the contractions start. Like natural yoghurt, natural fibre and natural goodness, parents seem to feel they will be letting their newborn down if they indulge in such an unnatural phenomenon as pain relief. Epidurals and gas take on the status of cattle-feed-cattle; just wait until the birthing equivalent of mad cow disease breaks out. What nonsense. Faced with such excruciating pain, the perfectly natural thing to do is seek relief. Women have been doing it for centuries, perhaps with herbs, perhaps just teeth clenched round a handy stick. Thank goodness we are better at it now. Reversing the "natural" in this way is ridiculous. Women who bore children naturally used to die from ... well, natural causes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour lacks concern for the environment

Sir: It is because of my real anger at the almost total exclusion of the environment from the Labour Party's draft manifesto that I write this letter. In a week when we have published a report on the effects climate change will have on the UK, it is almost inconceivable that the major opposition party should be so careless of our future that it could dismiss environmental concerns with mere throwaway paragraphs.

Governments like this one with a strong environmental record will need oppositions who can press them on important concerns. When such pressure is lacking, it is all too easy to become complacent.

To have produced a document designed to chart the route of a future government in which the environment plays no central part, and the concept of sustainable development or biodiversity no part at all, beggars belief.
JOHN GUMMER, MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: On Monday 8 July, parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will meet in Geneva to further the negotiations begun in Berlin last year. These aim to develop a protocol for adoption in 1997 for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the risks of climate change.

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change's recent report has agreed unanimously that it is now possible to detect a discernible human influence on global climate. It shows that early action is required to avoid dangerous interference with the climate system. The UK's own report also highlights the need for immediate action (report, 4 July).

However, we are extremely concerned that the problem of global climate change is not being treated with the urgency that it requires.

The UK target is to reduce greenhouse gases by 5-10 per cent of 1990 levels by the year 2010. The UK has indicated as necessary. The UK has yet to implement some serious climate mitigation policies and its target only reflects what business-as-usual emissions levels will produce. This means that the UK does not have the leverage to exercise real leadership in the negotiations.

The UK should commit itself to the CO₂ reduction targets of at least 20 per cent of 1990 levels by 2005, as embodied in the Alliance of Small Island States protocol. The UK could reach this target by promoting vigorously energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy and sustainable transport policies that have low cost or that save money.

SALLY CAVANAGH, Coordinator, Climate Action Network UK; ROBIN FELLOW, Director, WWF UK; ANDREW WARREN, Director, Association for the Conservation of Energy; BARBARA YOUNG, Chief Executive, RSPB; CHARLES SECRET, Director, Friends of the Earth, England, Wales & Northern Ireland; KEVIN DUNN, Director, Friends of the Earth, Scotland; DOUGLAS PARR, Campaign Director, Greenpeace UK; JULIE HILL, Director, Green Alliance; SIMON LYSTER, Director General, The Wildlife Trusts; STEPHEN JOSEPH, Director, Transport 2000; FIONA REYNOLDS, Director, Council for the Protection of Rural England; TOM CROSSETT, Secretary General, National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection
Climate Action Network UK
London SW6



Interpretations of a Bill of rights

Sir: Richard Bacon (letter, 3 July) asks constitutional reformers to come clean and admit that a Bill of rights necessarily shifts power to unelected judges.

If he means that individuals would have more opportunities to sue government ministers and public officials, then he is right. By creating positive rights we do not currently have, such as the right to privacy or to demonstrate, we would obviously be able to seek remedies where they are currently denied.

If, however, he means that courts would necessarily be able to declare Acts of Parliament "unconstitutional", then he is simply wrong. Like many others he assumes that the American system with its Supreme Court empowered to overturn statutes is the only model for enforcing bills of rights. The New Zealand bill of rights explicitly prevents the courts from overturning legislation, while in Canada parliament can re-enact such laws under specific circumstances.

Whichever approach we choose, new procedures would be required to ensure that Parliament, as well as the courts and the executive, take human rights principles into account as Jonathan Cooper proposed in his letter (28 June).

Mr Bacon asks where these principles should emanate from. The answer is international human rights instruments, of which the European Convention on Human Rights is only one. These represent the best human endeavour to date to establish a common set of values

Catholics in the Anglican church

Sir: I am sure that Jack O'Sullivan is wrong when he suggests that the main belief that unites Anglicans is "a dislike of Rome" (Section Two, "Suddenly, it's cool to be Catholic", 3 July).

Most Anglicans do not want to be Roman Catholics because they believe the Church of England to be as much a part of the "true faith" as any other denomination and that the Church of England is the ancient, historic Catholic church of this country. It was the ordination of women to the priesthood that shook this belief among a small minority but was, at worst, a matter of indifference to some and a cause of rejoicing for many.

Mr O'Sullivan will find plenty of ex-Roman Catholics in Anglican churches but the Church of England and the media make less of a fuss about return traffic.
GEOFFREY THOMPSON
London SE4

Redefinition of train services

Sir: The privatisation of InterCity rail links is resulting in an interesting redefinition of customer service.

On Wednesday 26 June, passengers between London St Pancras and Sheffield on the Midland Main Line, were subject to a two-hour delay and a resulting journey time of four and a half hours. On this occasion the public address system was not used to inform passengers of any rights they may possess from the privatised company in relation to a Passenger Charter, compensation or redress.

On Thursday 27 June, passengers on the 1630 train from London, through Sheffield to Leeds, were subject to a 20-minute delay until the train was stopped at Derby to allow the 1715 train from St Pancras to Sheffield to pass the now substantially delayed earlier train which was running on reduced power.

As a consequence of this action, the 1630 was 35 minutes late into Sheffield but, presumably, the 1715 arrived on time. As a consequence, the privatised company could claim that only one train in this particular period on 27 June had been delayed.

However, the passengers on the 1630 who were treated as second-class citizens were subjected to a much more substantial delay than would otherwise have been the case. Privatisation may have resulted

in free tea and coffee on the Midland Main Line, but it has not resulted in an improved service to passengers who are obviously mere pawns in a pretence of improvement designed to mislead those gullible enough to think that privatisation equals putting the consumers' interests first.
DAVID BLUNKETT
MP for Sheffield Brightside (Lab)
Sheffield

Sad silence

Sir: Anthony Bevis in his article, "Slackers and slackers" (4 July), referred to my silence in Parliament during the year 1993. The same is sadly true of 1994. However, he concedes that I am a sick man.

I do not wish to rehearse my symptoms in public: suffice to say that I have been absent with the approval of the whips, and have voted when the Government has been in extremis.

Mr Bevis continued: "It can be expected that the Honourable Gentleman is delivering a full and dedicated service to his constituents." This is true. With the help of an admirable and experienced secretary, I have coped with all my constituency correspondence since the last election. The fax machine and the telephone permit me to deal personally with the more serious cases. When, contrary to medical opinion, I did not improve after a spinal operation and several visits to hospitals, my association adopted Gerald Howarth as Tory

candidate. He has been nursing the constituency admirably in my absence.

I will not dwell upon my afflictions, save to say that I am in receipt of a disability allowance. Were I not, you would have seen and heard a great deal more from me. I have been MP for Aldershot since 1970. I can assure you I would not have wished to have spent my last Parliament "in dock".
JULIAN CRITCHLEY
MP for Aldershot (Con)
House of Commons
London SW1

Croatian beauty

Sir: I have just returned from Dubrovnik, Croatia and I want to remind everyone who loves it that it remains the same. Summer visitors will be received with open arms. "Ljetne Igre", the summer festival, is about to begin, the beauty of the town is timeless, and the spirit of the people is unchanged; as always, "Libertas".
HELEN RHEINLANDER
SCHREUER
St Luniere, France

Shoes of sloth

Sir: Lieutenant Colonel Richard Quicke, commander of the Winchester Training Regiment, considers wearing training shoes a sign of sloth ("New soldiers find going tough without their mums", 4 July).

Is it not because young men realise they will be under the total control of the holders of such absurd prejudices that they do not join up?
GEOFFREY MYERS
Croydon

Rationalists on the run

Sir: Roger Scruton ("Herbie taught me, then I ate him", 3 July) imagines he only has to make a sweeping assertion ("animals obviously have beliefs and feelings, but they cannot have rationality") for it to be incontestable. He regurgitates any number of trite clichés about animal rights campaigners being proto-fascists and communists and thereby convinces himself he's being incisive and, above all, rational.

One statement reveals the feebleness of his logic: "Let it be said that there is a moderation and control in human unkindness of which nature knows nothing". Does he know nothing of Rwanda, Bosnia, Pol Pot, the Stalinist purges, the First and Second World Wars? Nature (by which Mr Scruton means animals who aren't farmed or otherwise controlled by human beings) was never so maliciously and wilfully intemperate.

And he would have us believe that broiler chickens are spared the ravages of nature by being crammed into windowless sheds 40,000 at a time – where a large proportion die slowly from disease and starvation. "Rationalists" like Roger Scruton are on the run because the world is shifting under their feet and they don't know why or how to stop it. Their panicky theses – rich in ornate abstraction, semantic word-plays but little else – are the clearest evidence.
ANDREW TYLER
Director,
Animal Aid
Tonbridge, Kent

School bias

Sir: Following your report (3 July) of the survey carried out by the Girls' Schools Association and the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference into the university admissions process for our pupils, we would like to point out that the complaints of anti-independent school bias were a very real element of the survey, and not the reason for this research.

The survey showed that, for the majority of students, the university admissions process worked very well. However, our pupils encountered some difficulties, including rejection, without interview, of good candidates; poor interviewing procedures, and delays in universities' responses to candidates who had applied in good time.

We are confident that these difficulties are experienced by all schools, not just those in the independent sector.

TONY EVANS
Chairman, Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference
MARGARET RUDLAND
President
Girls' Schools Association
Leicester

Island illusions

Sir: The conviction that civilians were not involved in war until the Second World War (Bryan Appleyard, "What me? I'm off to lunch", 4 July) is an illusion of an island race, given to sending its soldiers overseas to fight.

Those who write military history are not too interested in rape, pillage and the sacking of cities, but the war in, say, Bosnia would have seemed quite familiar to Hannibal and Sweden's conquering Gustavus Adolphus.
KATHARINE WHITEHORN
London NW3

essay

What happens when Dorothy finally gets fed up with Gary?

Men will have to shape up, says Yvette Cooper

It's been a bad fortnight in blokedom. Football came home and collapsed again. The one thing men had left to give them a positive, confident, comfortable identity fizzled out last week. Even Germaine Greer was moved to sympathise with the male desolation emanating from Wembley. Those "30 years of hurt" are still accumulating. Sorry lads.

What could better capture the state of British manhood than the hordes of white-shirted men, trudging back through the terraces to the train, not angry, not fighting, not dominating anyone, not winning? They were simply gloomy, their romantic optimism crushed once more.

The news for men in general is not good. Last week the Equal Opportunities Commission said that more than half of their sex discrimination cases involve men being refused jobs traditionally done by women.

Women already make up almost half the workforce. The prospects of the younger generation are even more promising. Girls today are better qualified than their older sisters and their mothers. And they are better qualified than boys.

The prognosis for men looks bleak. Men seem ever less useful in the jobs of the future. So-called "women's skills" will be in great demand, whether it be better exam results, superior communication skills, greater sensitivity to others, better ability to juggle several tasks at once - or simply a greater willingness to work part-time, on temporary contracts, and for lower pay.

"Women are better colleagues," argues Sebastian Kraemer, consultant child and family psychologist at the Tavistock Centre. "They still have to put up with discrimination and sexism, and they are stuck in predominantly low-paid, insecure jobs with few employment rights. The old glass ceiling still squashes the ambitions of many talented women. Meanwhile, women continue to do most of the housework. Nevertheless, we sisters concede that men have their own troubles. They are struggling to work out how to handle assertive women. They are easily traumatised by changes at work. As social psychologist Simon Biggs explains, 'men have traditionally invested far more of their identity in work than women.' In fact some changes in the job market are pushing them out of work altogether. So how are they coping? Not too well. Many are moaning. 'The grief in men has been



The bad behaviour of 'Men Behaving Badly' is sad and pathetic and, in the long run, not good enough

confirms female ascendancy and changing male roles. Gone are the gear-stick-as-penis-extension images of the Seventies and Eighties. In their place are solid family men fantasising about their wives and worrying about soon-to-be-born babies.

The women, in contrast, are daunting: girls zoom across America outwitting and outblasting hopeless men as they go. A man is pincered, punished and tossed aside by his girlfriend for borrowing the car without permission. Even Nicole has a job these days.

Let's not go overboard. Women are still paid much less than men, even for the same job with similar qualifications and experience. They still have to put up with discrimination and sexism, and they are stuck in

predominantly low-paid, insecure jobs with few employment rights. The old glass ceiling still squashes the ambitions of many talented women. Meanwhile, women continue to do most of the housework. Nevertheless, we sisters concede that men have their own troubles. They are struggling to work out how to handle assertive women. They are easily traumatised by changes at work. As social psychologist Simon Biggs explains, 'men have

traditionally invested far more of their identity in work than women.' In fact some changes in the job market are pushing them out of work altogether. So how are they coping? Not too well. Many are moaning. 'The grief in men has been

increasing steadily since the start of the Industrial Revolution and the grief has reached a depth that cannot now be ignored,' wrote American Robert Bly in *Iron John*. Although Bly is the master of

himself. No, they can't have a job for life any more. But so what? Few women ever had one. And no, they can't invest their entire identity in the firm they work for: the company might not be there in two years. And if they

failed specimen of manhood. As Kraemer puts it, 'We pity him without contempt.' But fundamentally we do pity him. The characters in *Men Behaving Badly* are sad and pathetic too. Gary is a bit of a plonker: he boozes, farts, leers, and stumbles. He is baggy and a bit loose at the seams. But Dorothy loves him. She knows exactly how useless he is - no false consciousness here girls - but, nevertheless, she

forgives him and puts up with him. After all, he's only a bloke. What do you expect? But in the long run this isn't good enough. How long will Dorothy put up with Gary if he can't hold down a job that pays well enough to help support the kids, if he doesn't help with the babies so that she can keep working too, and if he tells their growing sons that school's boring and they should play football instead?

The real-life consequences of Gary as Dad can be seen around the country. While young sons are encouraged to go out and play healthy games of football, young daughters are indoors talking to friends, developing social skills, reading and doing homework. No wonder so many boys are under-achieving at school.

This is in fact the real man-crisis for the decade. Since technological change and global competition have wiped out many traditionally male,

are too fit to visit their GPs they had better reconcile themselves to early avoidable death. The younger generation of men are reacting in a different way. Much has been made of the 'New Lad Backlash.' Personified by Skinner and Baddiel and their Fantasy Football League, the magazine *Loaded* and the BBC sitcom *Men Behaving Badly*, this is supposedly the cheeky, confident, blokish reaction to feminism.

As backlashes go, it isn't too bad. The football mania that convulsed the nation last week was not threatening for women. All those red-faced, bare-chested men hollering together out of tune, may have looked rather ugly but they were not intimidating. Skinner and Baddiel's song was about disappointed hopes, not aggression. 'Southgate should be an example to us all,' says Sebastian Kraemer. He missed the penalty, but neither we nor his team-mates denounce him as a

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The only thing men really have to adjust to is change itself. No, they can't have a job for life. But so what? Few women ever did

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Birt on class, the media and daft memos

A leaked memo from the BBC has come into my hands, which is so private and personal that I have no choice but to make it public. It is a memo from John Birt himself, and I suppose that you might call it a discussion document, except that it is sent by John Birt to himself.

This would suggest one of several things: that John Birt is very fearful of finding his memos leaked, that he does not share his thoughts with anyone else much these days, or that he cannot believe anything he says until he writes it down.

However, I leave you to make up your own mind. Here it is.

From John Birt to John Birt. Just a few ideas I've been kicking around recently, which I thought I might like me to mull over.

1. People get very cross when I suggest that radio and TV are similar animals. Of course there are a few differ-

ences, but the similarities are much greater. Both are supply systems for programmes. Their methods of supply vary slightly, that is all. Basically, all media are the same deep down, from books to CDs. A Jane Austen novel can be turned into TV, radio, or audiotape, but it is still recognisably the same old book. As we all know, radio ideas are constantly being turned into TV hits. So why do they keep saying they are different animals? People are so blind!

2. Here's a good example. *Pick of the Week* on Radio 4 always has lots of good radio extracts on it, but it also has excerpts from TV. See what I mean?

3. John Major promised us a classless society. I wish he had produced it, because it would make my job so much easier, especially with radio! Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4 are basically just further examples of the British class system. Proletariat and unemployed in Radio 1, lower middle class in Radio 2, upper middle in

Radio 4 and hardly anyone at all except a few academics and unemployed graduates in Radio 3. Nobody else has to cater for the British class system by putting out different services! You don't find commercial radio doing it.

4. Must get someone to drop John Major a memo, asking him how the classless society is getting on.

5. Must have informal lunch with Tony Blair, just in case. Put my side of things.

6. Must stop using phrases like 'my side of things'. This suggests that there is another side of things. The success of the British revolution has



Miles Kingston

been its unanimity. I am unanimous about it. Nobody else counts. I have been inspired in this by the French way of doing things. People in Britain think that the French wave their hands about a lot and get nothing done. It is the exact opposite. They issue a plan and execute it ruthlessly. No consultation, no public inquiries. That is how they had a nuclear industry up and running, and TGVs, and the Eurostar line from Calais to Paris. What have we got in Kent? Nothing, except a pile of scaffolding called Ashford International!

7. I seem to be straying from the point, don't I?

8. Yes, I do.

9. Must stop talking to myself like this. You know what they say.

10. No, what do they say?

11. First sign of madness.

12. That's a bit politically incorrect, isn't it, talking about madness? Yes, it is. Sorry about that.

13. Anyway, much safer talking to yourself. And the

point is that if you have a plan and push it through, things do get done. Look at French nuclear testing. Set off bombs in the Pacific. Enormous protest. Tahiti burnt down. But the testing went on, and now there is no protesting because everyone has moved on to the next cause. French very clever. Knew people would forget.

14. Like they forgot about my tax arrangements.

15. Like they will forget about my new plans for change.

16. Haven't I fired anyone this week. Might sack that executive of mine who was on Today the other day, defending my plans to 'maintain and enhance' the World Service. He used the phrase so often even I thought he was lying. Then, when he said that John Birt was trying to prepare the BBC 'for the 20th century', I almost suspected he was taking the mick. If my staff can't tell the difference between this century and the next...

22. Been nice talking to me. We must talk again soon.

the commentators

They tried to tell him he was too Jung

When Alfred Adler died in 1937, Freud summed up notoriously: "For a Jew boy from a Viennese suburb, a death in Aberdeen, Scotland, is an unprecedented career and a proof of how far he had come. Truly his contemporaries have richly rewarded him for his service in having contradicted psychoanalysis."

When Ronnie Laing died in St Tropez at 61, his many enemies might have said something similar. A Glasgow boy from Govanhill had become rich and famous by denying the truths of textbook psychiatry.

John Clay sets out to rescue Laing from the anathema into which the orthodox have cast him, but, although he champions Laing throughout, the overall result is scarcely flattering to his hero.

Director of the Langham clinic by 35, Laing influenced many of the big names in psychiatry and psychoanalysis: Bowlby, Winnicott, Bettelheim, Anthony Clare. Although he began as a Freudian, Laing was always an eclectic figure, influenced by Reich on sexuality, Otto

Rank on birth trauma and Jung on the thesis that schizophrenia has a meaning.

For Laing, schizophrenia and psychosis were not manifestations of "abnormality" but simply ways of seeing the world and dealing with it, which made perfect sense when viewed from the standpoint of the mentally ill. In a word, psychosis was a strategy for dealing with victimhood, which is why his original patients were mainly women in the era before the women's liberation movement. Schizophrenia was particularly associated with an adverse family background; Laing often said that Pinter's plays provided perfect examples of the "schizophrenogenic" family.

Clay shows how these insights came naturally to Laing, for his first 20 years were spent in a twilight zone between normality and insanity. His mother was barking mad—a fact he discovered only when psychiatric colleagues visited his Glasgow home socially.

When Laing at 40 tried to reproach her for some of her

BOOK REVIEW

RD Laing: A Divided Self

John Clay

Hodder, £20

excesses, the repeated what she had always said when he was a boy: "Ronnie, we don't talk about those things here." When the young Ronnie first used the word "fuck" at home, his mother went almost catatonic with shock. This was probably why Laing liked to shock his audiences, particularly in the puritanical and politically correct United States, with a fusillade of four-letter words.

Laing came to feel that psychiatry was not a solution to the patient's problem but part of the problem itself, since psychiatry was ultimately a tool of the forces of repression: according to Laing, we are brainwashed into accepting as "freedom" precisely those values political élites want us to have.

Logically, this should have led Laing into Marxism; but instead he opted for retreat into Buddhism and Eastern mysticism. In the battle for hegemony in the late Sixties between the New Left and the flower-power people, Laing was on the side of Timothy Leary and the hippies. He was fond of pointing out that the slogan "power to the people" still implies a worship of power.

Increasingly, with his lack of interest in the socioeconomic world, his heroic work with difficult schizophrenics, his espousal of a kind of Buddhism-cum-existentialism and his status as guru, Laing came to seem like a Jung of the Gorbals. He was sexually promiscuous, aped Jung in sleeping with female patients and fathered 10 children with two wives and an assortment of partners. Clay is excellent on Laing's private life and gives us to understand that he was no great shakes as a lover. Given the amount of drugs he "did" and the rivers of alcohol he consumed, this is perhaps not surprising.

By his strenuous attempts to transcend orthodox psychiatry, Laing ended in an intellectual cul-de-sac. His enemies would say he declined into charlatanism, and Clay's fascinating book provides them with plenty of ammunition.

The strength of this well-researched biography is the often hilarious picture it paints of Laing in full flight at conferences, a more grotesque Groucho Marx or Ubu, insulting all and sundry. Fed up with rival gurus, he once heaved a brick through the window of the Bhagwan Rajneesh centre in London; the police found him sitting on the pavement cursing the "orange wankers".

It is an old cliché that analysts are madder than their patients, but Laing would have taken it as a compliment. His last words, as he lay dying from a heart attack on a St Tropez tennis court, are typical: "Doctor, what fucking doctor?"

FRANK MCLYNN

The reviewer is a biographer of Carl Gustav Jung.



RD Laing: he came to seem like a Jung of the Gorbals. He was sexually promiscuous, aped Jung in sleeping with patients and fathered 10 children

Older, wiser, richer ... 'better than all the rest'

Forget left and right, haves and have-nots. A seismic shift is taking place that will create a new central social divide – old and young

A vast amount of guff has been written in recent months about ageing as a problem: the discrimination older people face in the workplace, the difficulties of funding pension liabilities, the burden on health care, and so on.

Much less attention is paid to the positive changes in those three areas which will result from this rebalancing of our population. And the problems of ageing are nothing compared with the problems we would face if our society were not ageing. Were our society not ageing, more middle-aged and young people would be dying, something which would rightly make us all pretty miserable.

It is business school jargon to retitle all problems as opportunities; but the process of a country's ageing is, in a sense, an opportunity. Handling this well will not only make its citizens happier and more fulfilled; it will also increase the country's comparative economic advantage in the world.

People are just beginning to talk about the social changes that will result from an older society. On Tuesday, the Carnegie Trust attracted the deputy governor of the Bank of England, no less, to its conference in London to do just that.

Fred Edwards, chairman of the Carnegie Third Age Programme, pointed to personal characteristics that would be reflected more in an ageing population. Older people would bring more wisdom, and they were less ambitious and less self-centred than the young. They showed more concern for the environment, and were more likely to provide services on a voluntary basis. He could have added that they committed hardly any crime.

Insofar as grand societal changes are affected by the age distribution of the population (and of course that is only one of many factors at work) it would seem sensible to expect

developed countries over the next generation to become calmer, less materialistic, maybe less selfish, and certainly more law-abiding. Many people would surely welcome this.

Politics: one of the oddities of our present political debate is that intergenerational issues feature rarely. It is not just that the retired – one quarter of voters – are not an organised lobby. You hardly ever hear their interests advanced. When interest rates are cut, there is general rejoicing because of the help this gives young home-buyers; there is no squeak of concern for the resulting losses to older savers. When last week the Labour Party dropped its commitment to link state pensions with earnings rather than (as at present) with prices, this was hailed as a sign of its fiscal responsibility. Quite right, for it was. But you would have expected the down-grading of the interests of the pensioners to have aroused some protest. There was hardly any.

Yet public finance is one of the frontiers where the interests of the young and the old are in greatest potential conflict. Large budget deficits are deferred taxation, transferring the burden of current spending on to the young and the unborn. That is what is happening at the moment. The surge in inflation of the 1970s and 1980s, on the other hand, transferred resources from the old to the young through the housing market.

As people come to appreciate the scale of these wealth transfers, the issue of fairness between the generations will become a hotter political issue. It may even be that the next great divide in politics will not be between left and right but

between young and old. But it is the third issue, economics, where the real crunch comes. The harsh statistic is the dependency ratio, the number of people of working age against the number of children and old people, which over the next generation deteriorates for every developed country. The plain fact is that increasing living standards is going to depend



HAMISH McRAE

more and more on keeping older people in the workforce.

Here is the tragedy. Just at the time when sound economics suggests that people should be encouraged to carry on working for longer, something has happened in the labour market which is pushing in the opposite direction. Howard Davies, who as well as being deputy governor of the Bank is also president of Age Concern, pointed out that one-third of men aged 50 to 60 were now no longer in the workforce, either unemployed or inactive. On the Continent, it is generally worse. The burden of downsizing has been carried disproportionately by the fiftysomethings, forced into early retirement.

This is nuts. Howard Davies noted that for an economy to prosper it needed the best possible labour force and that cutting out the 50-year-olds removed skills that companies needed. Professor Tim Congdon, one of the Treasury's panel of "wise people", goes further.

He believes that the exclusion of these skills is an important reason why the supply side improvements to the economy of the 1980s have not yet greatly increased the growth potential of the British economy.

When you get economics pointing one way and companies doing the opposite, there has to be an explanation. I think there are several. One is the way our system of pensions makes it prohibitively expensive for companies to employ older workers and advantageous to encourage early retirement. Another is actual discrimination, for it is still legal to specify an age in a job advertisement. A third is the lingering concept of an age-defined corporate hierarchy; that it is quite difficult to move older workers out of full-time, senior jobs into part-time, less senior ones without upsetting pay structures and pension rights. A fourth is the very concept of an arbitrary retirement age, invented more than 100 years ago when life expectancy was much less.

But this is changing. More

people are becoming self-employed and so can carry on as long as they want to. Performers – not just actors and writers, but anyone whose pay is related precisely to his or her output – can carry on very successfully beyond conventional retirement age. And companies are learning to bring back retired executives part-time as consultants.

Using older workers efficiently may become a key to corporate success in the future – particularly since companies will increasingly find themselves selling to older customers too.

The customers, for their part, will have to be persuaded that it is actually worth carrying on some kind of work. There is a powerful argument for not taxing the earnings of retired people at the top rate that they attract at present because of their other income from pensions and savings. It is in society's interest that the old should be as economically active as possible.

It is the age of the aged. Older people will increasingly have the money, all the more so if they are encouraged to carry on in some kind of paid work. Expect to hear more about grey values; expect more attention to grey politics; but above all, expect more power from grey chequebooks.

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Anita's mother, Jean Bailey



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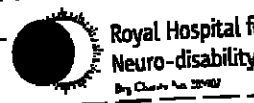
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Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

Tough on Synod, tough on Synod's cause

New Labour may provoke a constitutional crisis over the Church's money. Andrew Brown explains

The Rt Hon Michael Alison, PC, MP, has a record second to none as a battler for causes that were ultimately lost. He was one of Margaret Thatcher's closest and fiercest supporters; and as Second Church Estates Commissioner, he has been for many years the man whose job it is to ensure that the constitutional relationship between the Church of England and Parliament works.

Yesterday he managed to skirt round the word "disestablishment" for nearly 80 minutes when presenting the latest report of the House of Commons social security committee into the affairs of the Church Commissioners. But at last he broke down and "disused" the word, and its companion "disendowment", when discussing what would happen if the Church of England's General Synod does not give way in the contest of wills it has now embarked on with Parliament.

Disestablishment would mean the removal of all links between church and state; disendowment the loss of most of the Church Commissioners' £2.7bn of assets, a figure that dwarfs the resources available to all other

English churches. It has happened before, to the Anglican churches of Wales and Ireland. In both cases, the bulk of the money was taken by the state for educational purposes, though the churches argued that it was theirs.

Now the Church seems determined to risk the same fate rather than allow Parliament, instead of the General Synod, to determine details of the legislation that will hand over control of the Church Commissioners' income to a committee headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and consisting mostly of Synod members. This committee, to be known as the Archbishop's Council, would provide the Church of England with a central government for the first time since Parliament lost interest in the day-to-day running of the church in the 19th century; and a central part of its powers would be to determine how the income of the Church Commissioners should be spent.

That is where the quarrel with Parliament comes in. The Labour MP Frank Field is a devout Anglican who chairs the all-party Commons social security committee. Because the proposed reform of the commissioners will

affect clergy pensions, the committee has been holding hearings into it.

Their report, published yesterday, says that the Church of England may make whatever internal arrangements it likes. It may ordain women, amend its prayer book, even set up an archbishop's council. But it cannot divert the income of the Church Commissioners without detailed scrutiny. The

Neither side can back down without loss of face, and perhaps more than face

assets of the Church Commissioners derive, at least in part, from the state, which cannot simply hand them over to an outside body on the strength of a law that Parliament cannot debate.

The General Synod can make laws – it is the only body outside Parliament with that power – and these "measures", as they are known, must be accepted by Parliament as they stand,

or else rejected completely. They cannot be amended. This system was introduced in 1919. Both then and since, Parliament has reserved the right to bring in Bills to regulate the Church of England in the ordinary way. But it has never made use of the right; and the General Synod had come to believe that it had fallen into disuse, and all Church legislation would be conducted by measure.

Yesterday, Michael Alison told them differently. "The Church Commissioners are a parliamentary charity. Parliament cannot and will not say that the whole disposal of them is in the hands of the Church of England's General Synod by measure. If that were presented as a measure, it would be rejected."

Backing up his view was not just the unanimous report of the all-party social security committee, but a letter from Jack Straw, another devout Anglican, who will probably be Home Secretary in a year's time and thus responsible for bringing any Bills about the Church Commissioners before the House. "I very much agree with you that there must be a full Bill as far as any changes to the Church

Commissioners' control over the historic assets of the Church of England are concerned," he wrote.

To this, Philip Mawer, the Secretary General of the General Synod, replied: "The report ... fails to understand the Church of England's proper constitutional relations with Parliament. I must make clear that the Church of England's General Synod could not accept the committee's conclusion that Parliament should legislate by Bill on matter concerning the Church Commissioners."

In this, he had the backing of the Synod as clearly as Michael Alison had the backing of Parliament. Neither side can now back down. The crisis may be postponed for a while. The committee is perfectly willing to allow through a measure making temporary arrangements for future clergy pensions. Beyond that, though, the two sides have adopted positions from which neither can back down without loss of face, and perhaps more than face. It will be extraordinary if it is the devout Anglicans of the new Labour Party who finally expel the Church of England from its privilege, wealth, and influence.

business

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171 293 2636 fax 0171 293 2096

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Grim borrowing forecasts set to limit Chancellor's scope for pre-poll tax cuts

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The Government is preparing to announce a new set of economic forecasts that will severely reduce its scope for tax cuts in the run up to the general election. Despite the recent spate of good news about the economy, the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will next week have to deliver a gloomier outlook than the one he made at the time of the last Budget.

The Treasury is poised to downgrade its forecast for growth in 1996 and admit that government borrowing will be billions of pounds higher than its original target. A shortfall in tax revenues last year has derailed the original borrowing plans.

As a result of the disappointing state of the government's finances, the Chancellor is expected to play down hopes of any tax cuts this year when he publishes the department's summer forecast on Tuesday.

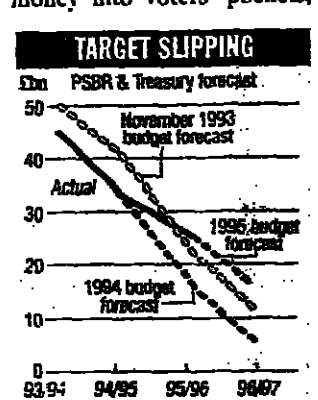
His problem will be how to present the forecast without diluting his upbeat message that the economy will recover by next spring. The Chancellor recently signalled that he would prefer the latest possible election date to take advantage of the recovery in growth which is being fuelled by a strong upturn in consumer spending.

The growth forecast for this year will be cut to 2.5 per cent from 3 per cent, as the Chancellor hinted in last month's Mansion House speech. The promise of 3 per cent growth will be postponed to 1997.

The Treasury's projection for the public sector borrowing requirement will be raised from £22.4bn to around £27bn.

The new Treasury outlook will be released days before ministers and officials meet at Chevening, the foreign secretary's Kent residence, for the first discussion of this year's Budget strategy.

The rocky state of the Government's finances leave Mr Clarke little scope to put more money into voters' pockets.



and holds out the prospect of an even tougher spending round with government departments than usual.

Without reductions in planned public expenditure it will be impossible to justify lower taxes, but there are clear signs from areas such as health that the current targets will prove extremely difficult to achieve. The Cabinet is due to discuss expenditure plans within the next fortnight.

Spending has been right on

target for the past two financial years. But many economists think the current year's tough target of 1.2 per cent growth will be too difficult to meet.

Steven Bell, chief economist at investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "It is the normal pattern to play down tax hopes at this time of year." However, the disappointing outlook for the PSBR meant the room for reductions was genuinely limited, he added.

Most City economists still expect Mr Clarke to deliver lower income taxes in the Budget. Bill Martin, chief economist at Swiss bank UBS, said: "He might unveil more public expenditure savings when we get to the Budget. Another £3bn off an already implausible set of plans is neither here nor there."

Mr Martin predicted the incoming government would inherit a large deficit after the election.

The Treasury forecast next week will assume that current spending targets, which were cut by £3.2bn in last November's Budget, are met. However, departmental spending in the first two months of this financial year has run well ahead of the plans, and many observers think the overrun will continue.

In addition, compensation for BSE will eat up much of the contingency reserve for emergency overspending, one of the traditional sources of funds for tax cuts. The cost of the mad cow crisis is currently put at about £2bn over three years.

The net £3.1bn tax cuts announced last Budget, which came into effect in April, were



Tiresome legacy: A slowdown earlier this year and a shortfall in tax receipts has forced a revised growth forecast to disappoint the Chancellor. Photo: David Rose

financed from the contingency reserve, tougher plans for spending and the assumption of higher privatisation revenues.

Tax revenues as a whole have now stopped falling behind the Treasury's forecast, although income tax receipts were down 5 per cent in the year to May.

But the legacy of last year's £3bn shortfall in VAT and corporation tax receipts was a higher-than-expected level of borrowing at the start of the current financial year.

The slowdown at the end of last year and beginning of this year have forced the downgrade

in the growth forecast. Most independent economists thought the 3 per cent prediction made last November was unduly optimistic. But Mr Clarke will predict that the economy is about to pick up strongly, aided by higher consumer spending and a recovery on the

Continent boosting exports. "The Treasury can say that things have been slower than they thought but will improve from now on," said David Walton, an economist at Goldman Sachs. He said a forecast of growth this year of anything up to 2.5 per cent would be

plausible, although that would leave the Treasury with one of the most optimistic outlooks. "They will show the economy reaching what is effectively a policy target of 3 per cent growth in the first half of next year," Mr Martin said.

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Troubled Costain bailed out by South-east Asian investor

PATRICK TOOHER

Costain, the troubled construction group, was thrown a financial lifeline yesterday when it unveiled plans for a £73.6m share issue that will give a 40 per cent stake to a new Asian investor.

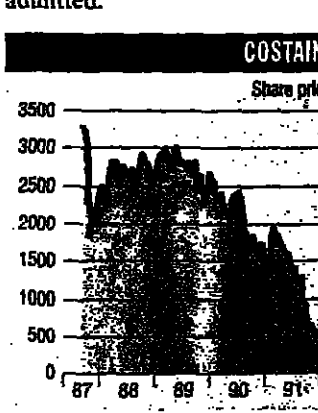
The deal, Costain's third capital raising exercise in five years, involves Malaysian infrastructure group 'Intria Berhad' becoming Costain's biggest shareholder.

Costain billed the deal as a major opportunity for expansion in South-east Asia. "Our association with Intria will help provide significant new business opportunities in Malaysia and elsewhere," said Alan Lovell, Costain's chief executive. He added that the cash injection was crucial if it was to retain the support of its banks after lending covenants were broken last year.

Costain said the Takeover Panel had agreed to waive the rule obliging any firm or individual buying more than 30 per

cent of the voting rights in a public company making a general offer to remaining shareholders.

However, there was no further news on the planned disposal of Costain's US raring division which is expected to raise about £45m. Talks are at an advanced stage. "In an ideal world we would have announced the sale of our US businesses at the same time [as the re-financing]," Mr Lovell admitted.



Costain has been in limbo for the past week after its shares were suspended for failing to publish its 1995 results on time.

The shares remain frozen at 39p after slumping 31p before the suspension, but Costain expects them to be re-listed before the end of month once the open offer is completed and the annual report is published.

Intria has agreed to underwrite 40 per cent of a 3-for-1 open offer for Costain shares at 50p. It has also been assigned four places on the Costain board.

The banks will underwrite the rest of the share offer in a debt-for-equity swap giving them 35 per cent of the firm. Half the cash raised will be used to cut Costain's £77m of debt, the remainder to finance new business.

Mr Lovell said following the refinancing, net debt will fall to £3m on pro forma shareholders' funds of £42.8m.

Costain, whose chairman Sir Christopher Benson is to step down by May 1997, plans to write off an £89.8m deficit on its profit and loss account, clearing the way for dividend payments to be resumed.

The company, announcing its results for the year to December 1995, paid no dividend last year. Stripping out exceptional charges of £93.4m, the 1995 pre-tax loss was £37.8m, compared with £27.9m in 1994.

Mark Hake, analyst at UBS, said the deal placed the bal-

ance of power in Costain with a set of major investors. "The Malaysians will have the most power with 40 per cent [of shares], with the Arabs [two major shareholders] holding 38 per cent. Not much of the stock will be in the open market."

Kuwait-based construction group Mohamed Abdulmohsin Kharafi & Sons has some 19.1 per cent of the company, and a further 19.2 per cent is held by Saudi-based Raymond International. But Mr Hake said the deal would give Costain the financial muscle to compete for projects, especially in Asia, "which has been a very good market for construction".

Mr Lovell said that just half the £580m year-end order book was earmarked for overseas business. "The proportion of South-East Asia is bound to go up," he added.

Costain currently makes about 15 per cent of its sales in the region.

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Ness nets a monster pay-off from Hornby

NIGEL COPE

Keith Ness, who stepped down as chief executive of the Hornby toys group last year, was paid compensation of £720,000, twice the level the company was expecting to pay.

Mr Ness stepped down in October after an apparent difference of opinion with other directors over the future strategy of the company which is best known for its train sets and Scalextric racing car games.

Hornby has been in negotiations with Mr Ness's lawyers ever since. In his last year, Mr Ness received a salary of £113,000 and was on a three-year contract. However, he did waive his performance-related bonuses in 1993 and 1994. The pay-out represents a climb-down by the company which only a few months ago was saying that it expected to pay Mr Ness "significantly less" than his full entitlement.

Mr Ness led a management buy-out of Hornby in 1982 and took the company public four years later. However, the company struggled during the re-

cession, hit by a combination of cheaper competition from abroad and the craze for computer games.

After changing its year-end to March, Hornby yesterday reported pre-tax losses of £5.1m compared to the £611,000 profit in the year to December 1994.

The dive into the red was caused by the £4m loss on the disposal of the Fletcher speedboat business and £288,000 of redundancy costs as well as the compensation payment to Mr



Payout: Keith Ness received £720,000 compensation

Ness. A write-off on an investment in San Francisco toy-makers amounted to £694,000.

The company is now concentrating on the main Hornby train business and Scalextric. In its current trading statement the company said the radio-controlled car market was "increasingly difficult" with new competition.

The company is now reviewing its arrangements with its current supplier and intends to make alternative plans next year to remain competitive.

A wide-ranging review of costs, product quality and exports is starting to pay off. In the second quarter of 1996 orders, sales and production were "above expectations". But the company stressed that as the key sales period was between October and December, it was too early to suggest that the trend might continue.

Retailers are continuing to hold prices down. The company will now be called simply Hornby rather than Hornby Group. The shares rose 10.5p to 205p.

Westcountry flotation could spark ITV bidding war

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Westcountry, the privately held ITV franchise, is considering a stock market flotation that may see the exit of one of its leading shareholders, the Daily Mail and General Trust, and could spark a bidding war in the consolidating ITV sector.

DMGT, which owns 19.4 per cent of Westcountry through its Associated Newspapers subsidiary, is believed to be eager to expand its non-terrestrial

television interests, including its cable-exclusive Channel One. The company also publishes the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard*.

Two other Westcountry shareholders, Southwest Water and Britanny Ferries, are also believed to be reviewing their stake in the broadcasting company, and may view a flotation as a way of reducing their stakes and realising profits.

Westcountry declined to comment on the flotation plans yesterday. But a spokesman

confirmed that Lazards, the investment house, had been appointed to help the company identify opportunities. "The shareholders are believed to be attracted by the huge premiums being fetched by ITV companies, which are poised for a round of consolidation following liberalisation of ownership rules under the new Broadcasting Bill."

But analysts said Westcountry would not command premiums similar to Yorkshire-Tees, the large northern

ITV company that is likely to be taken over by Granada, the media and leisure giant. One leading analyst suggested a range of £70m-£100m for the whole of Westcountry.

The launch of flotation plans could spark bids from other ITV companies, including HTV and United News and Media, whose ITV franchises abut Westcountry's territory. HTV, itself a possible bid target, could see the purchase of Westcountry as an effective defence against an unwelcome approach from either

United or Carlton. Michael Green's television company, which owns the Central and London weekday franchises.

United, owner of the Anglia and Meridian franchises is thought to be looking at expanding its television interests, and might consider extending its holding westwards. It is also investigating opportunities in the cable and satellite markets.

Westcountry is among the smaller ITV franchises, with about 2.3 per cent of national advertising revenue. It had pro-

fits last year of £5m, and for the first time paid a dividend to its shareholders. As a smaller company, it benefits from subsidies from the larger ITV franchises, although these are likely to be withdrawn. As a result, it is unclear whether the company could survive as an independent.

Southwest Water, with 22.5 per cent of the shares, is on the receiving end of bids, from Severn Trent and Wessex Water, which have been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Energy float sparks at start

MICHAEL HARRISON

The flotation of the nuclear power generator British Energy was heading for success last night after the international share offer ended the first day fully subscribed, valuing the company at about £1.5bn.

A spokesman for BZW, the Government's advisers on the sale, said that institutional investors had put in bids for the shares at between 200p and 230p compared with a range of 180p to 200p set by ministers. British Energy, which operates the country's eight most modern nuclear reactors, would be worth £1.4bn at 200p a share and £1.6bn at 230p. The price range set by the Government would value British Energy at £1.26bn to £1.96bn.

The spokesman rejected earlier reports that institutions were boycotting the offer and said: "This is a very satisfactory start."

He added that demand had been even across the main UK, US and continental markets. As the international book building exercise continues over the next seven days, demand is likely to increase, driving the price up towards the top end of the Government's range.

There had been worries in the

last few days that the flotation might flop or only just get away at the bottom end of the pricing range amid fears about falling electricity pool prices and the ability of British Energy to run its plants at sufficiently high capacity. The highly-rated electricity analysts team at SBC Warburg only valued British Energy at £1bn-£1.2bn while Salomons advised clients to shun the issue altogether.

The price set in the international book building exercise will determine the final fully-paid price for small investors. The first instalment in the UK public offer has been set at 100p a share - a 5p discount to the institutional price - meaning a saving of £15 on the minimum investment of 300 shares.

The first-year yield for small investors will be 22 per cent since two dividends will be payable before the second instalment falls due. For investors who hold onto their shares there is a 10p discount off the second instalment or a bonus share issue of one-for-15.

The public offer closes next Wednesday. With 1.7 million registrations received by share shops, the offer is expected to at least twice subscribed.

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STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3760.80	+46.50	+1.3	3857.10	3638.50
FTSE 250	4371.10	+4.90	+0.1	4568.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1892.00	+18.70	+1.0	1945.40	1818.80
FT Small Cap	2188.65	+0.32	+0.0	2244.38	1954.06
FT All Share	1875.47	+17.09	+0.9	1924.17	1791.95
New York	5703.02	closed		5778.00	5032.94
Tokyo	22292.91	-86.11	-0.4	22668.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	11181.82	+118.84	+1.1	11594.92	10204.87
Frankfurt	2577.39	+8.44	+0.3	2577.39	2253.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling*			UK medium gilt		
1 Month	1 Year	Medium Term	1 Year	Long Bond	(%)
UK	5.75	6.10	7.88	8.12	8.21
US	5.94	5.84	6.81	6.08	6.96
Japan	0.44	0.84	3.23	2.50	
Germany	3.31	3.63	6.55	6.72	7.07

*Bank of England

CURRENCIES					
\$/£			€/£		
Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	1.5603	+0.13c	1.5634	0.8409	-0.05
\$ (New York)	1.5585	+0.05c	1.5595	0.8416	-0.02
DM (London)	2.3770	-0.07d	2.3204	1.5335	-0.17d
¥ (London)	172.213	-0.156	138.243	110.375	-0.195
₹ (India)	86.8	unch	83.7	97.2	-0.2

Source: Reuters

OTHER INDICATORS					
Yesterday			Index		
Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Index	Latest	Year Ago
Oil Brent \$	19.51	+0.34	16.22	152.9	+2.2pc
Gold \$	381.23	+2.03	384.35	130.3	+1pc
Gold £	244.33	-0.82	240.41	Base Rates	-5.75pc

Success for a privatisation that fails every test

COMMENT

For a fleeting moment there was just the chance that British Energy would prove a sell-off too far... But in the end, all the worries about falling electricity prices and its ability to make real profits have melted away in the face of the yields on offer

Selling off the family plutonium was never going to be the easiest task as the Government empties out the bottom of the privatisation barrel. The initial response from institutional investors suggests, however, that the sale of British Energy is going to be another depressingly successful operation.

One day into the institutional book-building and the offer is already fully subscribed at a price that suggests ministers will be looking at a valuation near the top end of their £1.26bn-£1.96bn range when bids close a week today.

There is no reason the sale should have flopped. British Energy shares should be the nearest thing you can get to Government bonds since every penny of juice they produce is used.

And even at £2bn, it is still a steal. Furthermore, the proceeds will not be enough to cover the cost of just one of its reactors. Sizewell B, much less pay for the nuclear liabilities being left with the taxpayer in the shape of the Magnox stations.

For a fleeting moment there was just the chance that British Energy would prove a sell-off too far even for the Government's well-oiled privatisation machine. But in the end, all the worries about falling electricity prices and its ability to make real profits have melted away in the face of the yields on offer.

The fact that the flotation is heading for success only goes to prove the old adage that anything can be sold if the price is low enough.

Perhaps taxpayers should be used to rum deals by now. But this privatisation also fails the test that it sets an industry free from the dead hand of state ownership since, once in the private sector, British Energy intends to build, or no more nuclear reactors. Ministers should not be slapping themselves on the back too heartily.

Costain shareholders get another raw deal

There's more than a touch of *deja vu* in Costain's confident announcement yesterday that its refinancing proposals would "transform the balance sheet" and "provide a firm base from which to move forward". Now when was it that Costain, or Costain as it was apply rechristened by Reuters at one stage yesterday, last made such extravagant claims? Why, it was when the company last raised money from the stock market about three years ago. And yes, it said exactly the same thing about five years ago too, at the time of the rights issue before that. This is a company which has had so many second chances that it stretches credulity to give it yet another.

The problem is that Costain's downtrodden shareholders really don't have any choice. Iniquitous though the terms of the latest fund-raising are, if they are not agreed, the company will go under and shareholders will lose everything. They are being asked

to surrender a good proportion of accepted shareholder rights as a price of Malaysia's money. The first thing to go is the requirement that anyone acquiring a stake of more than 30 per cent has to make an offer on equal terms to all. After all they have been through, many shareholders would quite like the 50p-a-share that is going to get it. Unless you agree to waive this requirement, shareholders are told, there will be no Malaysian money at all, and the company sinks.

The second thing shareholders are asked to forget is that their rights in the fund-raising might actually be worth something. Shareholders are offered the chance to participate in the financing as if it were a rights issue.

If you really want to, you can subscribe three new shares at 50p for every one held. In normal circumstances, those who do not subscribe could expect their rights to be sold in the market and as a consequence receive a nice little cheque in the post. Not in this case. The shares remain suspended until the refinancing is agreed and in the bag. The result is that nobody will know for certain whether it is worth subscribing until it is too late to do so.

Costain's shareholders have suffered so many indignities over the years that a few more at this late stage hardly seem to make a lot of difference. The latest refinancing dilutes them down to just 25 per cent of the

company's capital, worth perhaps £30m if they are lucky. Not so long ago this company was valued at £1.7bn. Most shareholders will be wondering why they didn't allow the company to go to the wall at the time of the last rights issue three years ago.

Jam tomorrow leaves Clarke in a jam today

When the Treasury publishes its summer forecast next week, the fun-loving Kenneth Clarke will again have to promise jam tomorrow, even though there is none today. That growth rate of 3 per cent really is on its way, he will insist, only it is going to have to be postponed until next year. And government borrowing? Yes, that too will be falling soon, justifying tax cuts for all, only it won't be this year, it will be next.

The Chancellor can be relied on to deliver the summer forecasts with his usual robust cheer. After all, the economy has given him plenty of grounds for satisfaction recently. The consumer upturn he predicted has got into full swing.

Inflation is falling and will almost certainly slip below the 2.5 per cent target later this year. Unemployment will probably continue to fall, although more slowly than in the recent past. What does it matter if the precise growth and borrowing figures are not what they were supposed to be?

In some respects, this bluff Midlands good

sense is absolutely right. Nobody's forecasts are ever exactly right; it is the Treasury's unfortunate lot that its own forecasts are subjected to much closer scrutiny than everybody else's. Far too much fuss is made about small changes in numbers whose precision is completely spurious. The gist of Mr Clarke's prediction - that the economy is picking up steam - is correct.

But for the sake of the Tory Party's credibility the Chancellor will have to make good one of his promises: that the government budget will balance in the medium term. Unlike the 3 per cent growth figure, a declining deficit is meant to be a policy rather than the Treasury's best guess about how spending and tax revenues might turn out. Conservatives, even those like Mr Clarke who believe in a role for governments, are supposed to want to shrink it in size.

Luckily, "the medium term" is well after the latest possible election date, but even so the Government must keep the PSBR falling if it is to live up to its claim of sound economic management. The logical conclusion is no tax cuts without even bigger expenditure cuts.

Most City economists think there is next to no chance of meeting tougher spending targets, however tempestuous the current round of discussions. Does that mean no tax cuts this year? Budget Day in November will reveal whether electoral considerations are strong enough to turn Mr Clarke into a jam-today Chancellor.

Car appointment: Search for a Briton to take over as chief executive fails

Top Rover job goes to BMW boss

MICHAEL HARRISON

The German car-maker BMW yesterday appointed one of its board members as chief executive of its Rover Group subsidiary after failing to find a Briton suitable for the job.

BMW had said that it intended to appoint another Briton after the unexpected resignation of John Towers as chief executive in May. Instead it has given the job to Dr Walter Hasselkus, who currently runs BMW's motorcycle division.

A Rover spokesman said: "We did begin a search in the UK for a replacement but BMW decided that the position called for someone with a wide range of skills in international sales and running a large manufacturing operation. It came to the conclusion that the person it was looking for was under its nose."

Dr Hasselkus can also take over very quickly, whereas a more extensive search would have taken longer.

The British candidates were thought to include Chris Woodward, a former Rover executive who is now managing director of luxury car-maker Rolls-Royce, and Ian Gibson, the

managing director of Nissan's Sunderland factory.

The appointment of Dr Hasselkus strengthens the German stranglehold over Rover's top management. The Rover chairman, Dr Wolfgang Reitzle, is also a BMW board member.

Rover denied, however, that the management changes would lead to Rover being subsumed into BMW and disappearing as a distinct marque.

Motor industry observers expressed surprise that BMW had been unable to find a suitable candidate within these shores, pointing out that General Motors appointed a Briton, Nick Reilly, as chairman and managing director of its UK subsidiary, Vauxhall, in April, while the chairman of Ford in Detroit, Alex Trotter, was a Briton.

There was speculation that BMW had found difficulty finding a British chief executive for the same reason that Mr Towers decided to quit the job - the lack of a free hand now that Rover is one more subsidiary of a larger car group.

Dr Hasselkus, 54, is familiar with the British motor industry, having been president of BMW (GB) between October 1980



New man: Dr Walter Hasselkus takes over at Rover following John Towers' resignation

and March 1984. He began his career with the lighting group Osram and joined BMW in 1976, working in its corporate planning division. During his 20 years with the group he has also been president of BMW South Africa and head of Central European Sales.

He joins Rover at a time when its share of the UK car market continues to slip while

worldwide sales rise. In the first five months of this year, total sales were up 8 per cent at just over 200,000 compared with a share of the UK market which has remained flat at just under 11 per cent.

Last year Rover suffered a loss of £148m under German accounting rules, which allow depreciation to be written off against profits immediately, but

an operating profit of £92m under British accounting standards. The next model due out from Rover is a small Landrover designed to compete with the Toyota Rav 4 and other Japanese four-wheel drives. The car will appear next year and is one of the largest elements in a £1bn investment programme for Rover sanctioned by its German parent.

Abbey wins settlement over Barings venture

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Abbey National is believed to have won about £40m in an out-of-court settlement with the Dutch bank ING and the administrators of Barings, in a dispute over a joint derivatives company.

When Barings collapsed in February 1995, its new owners withdrew support for a profitable joint operation called Abbey National Barings Derivatives, which was forced to curtail its activities as a result.

This January, Abbey issued a writ claiming breach of a five-year agreement with Barings to provide an office and personnel to run the joint operation.

The writ against Barings' administrators, Nigel Hamilton, Alan Bloom and Maggie Mills of Ernst & Young, claimed

breach of the agreement and also alleged that ING had procured the breach.

Neither side would comment on the terms of the out-of-court settlement, but it is thought that £30m of the money to be paid to Abbey National is for cash balances held in the business at the time Barings collapsed.

In addition, Abbey is thought to have claimed up to £25m for loss of profits under the five-year agreement, based on the £5m the joint company had made in its first full-year up to the Barings collapse.

The bank appears to have settled for about £10m on top of the cash balances. Analysts said only the lost derivatives profits would affect Abbey National's own profit and loss account.

For much of last year the derivatives firm was able only to

service existing customers and could not seek out new business, as a result of the loss of Barings staff and premises, which forced it to rely on a core group of Abbey personnel.

Abbey made clear at the time that the damage to the business was not a result of the Barings collapse but of actions taken afterwards by the administrators and ING, which bought Barings shortly after the crisis broke.

The firm, renamed Abbey National Financial Products, was not reopened to new business until October, but it has been hiring specialist staff and is believed to have been profitable for the following three months.

In a statement, the two sides said they had reached a "mutually satisfactory settlement" to the litigation.

Cantors merger expected

NIGEL COPE

Cantors, the furniture retailer, is expected to announce a merger this morning with Harveys Holdings, the home furnishings retailer controlled by Lord Harris, the Carpetright chairman.

Neither side would comment on the proposed deal yesterday but it is expected to be announced with Cantors' results, which have been delayed until to-

day to enable final negotiations to take place.

The merger would in effect be a reverse takeover by Harveys, which is by far the larger company. It is thought that Lord Harris had considered taking Harveys public but thought the group too small. The merger would give Lord Harris two publicly quoted companies.

Cantors shares were suspended at 175p when the company said it was in negotiations

with Harveys. At that price Cantors is valued at £26.1m.

The two companies make a good fit. Cantors is strong in cabinet furniture with many stores in the north. Harveys, which has 170 stores, is strong in soft furnishings with a stronghold in the South-east. Harveys is expected to be the main trading name.

Cantors, with its 70 high street shops, has been hit by out-of-town competition. In January it reported profits of just £53,000.

IN BRIEF

• The Energy Minister, Tim Eggar, launched a strong attack on the electricity industry following reports that the supermarket group J Sainsbury and several other large users were refusing to pay their bills after being overcharged. Mr Eggar stressed that he did not condone non-payment but said it was unfortunate that, two years after the industry was opened to competition, it was still scoring own-goals. He warned it was imperative that the companies stopped squabbling among themselves and delivered cost-effective solutions for when the domestic market was thrown open to competition in 1998.

• The number of receiverships fell to a six-year low in the first half of the year, according to accountancy firm Deloitte & Touche. There were 128 receivership and administration appointments in June, similar to the April and May totals. There were reductions in all industries and all regions except Yorkshire and Humberside between last year and this.

• BT is taking part in a field trial of digital terrestrial television this month, jointly with the BBC and Pace Micro Technology. BT has already run interactive television trials in Colchester and Ipswich to show how customers can access on-line services from their television set. It also plans to market jointly with Microsoft a range of computer networking and on-line services to small and medium sized businesses, using BT's direct sales channels and several Microsoft accredited agents.

• Woolwich Building Society has appointed Lynne Peacock, its general manager, to become operations director, replacing John Stewart, who was appointed chief executive last week. Ms Peacock, 42, who joined Woolwich in 1983, is the first woman to become an executive director on the society's board.

• The Chancellor's City Promotion Panel has accepted proposals from British Invisibles to set up a system based on the Internet to boost the world-wide sales of the City's services.

• German manufacturers reported a 0.3 per cent rise in new orders in May, the third increase in a row, after two very buoyant months. Domestic orders declined slightly but export orders rose 2.9 per cent to a level 5.1 per cent higher than a year earlier. Economists read the figures as a further sign that recovery is on the way. The only worrying aspect of the figures was a fall in domestic orders for capital goods, suggesting investment spending remains subdued. Separately, the Bank of France shaved its floor money market intervention rate from 3.6 to 3.55 per cent.

• Shares in Escom, the German computer firm, plunged more than 50 per cent yesterday as trading resumed a day after the company announced it would seek court help to avert bankruptcy. The German house suspended trading after Escom said PC price wars forced its estimated 1995 loss to DM180m (£70m). The company wants to remain in business while it tries to negotiate a repayment plan with creditors. If agreement can't be reached, Escom could be forced into bankruptcy. Meanwhile, the Federal Office for Supervision of Securities Trading, the German government watchdog, said the sharp drop ahead of the insolvency announcement prompted a "routine" inquiry into possible insider trading.

Football clubs warm up with big money deals

PATRICK DOHER

Top Premiership clubs yesterday lined up for the new football season with a series of financial deals that pave the way for a major escalation in transfer market activity for star players.

The clubs are engaged in frenzied fund-raising exercises to compete for players with Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, the only British clubs quoted on the main stock exchange, whose shares have soared in recent months on the back of multi-million pound television and sponsorship deals.

The most audacious move saw peace break out at FA Cup semi-finalists Chelsea, where millionaire director Matthew Harding agreed to pump £5m into the club's holding company, Chelsea Village, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market. The money will be used to develop Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground and to strengthen manager Ruud Gullit's squad. Mr Harding is paying 52p a share and the new shares in Chelsea Village are set to close 22p higher at 91p.

Chelsea Village's board also agreed that Mr Harding and Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, should each be granted options over 7.5 million shares in the company at prices between 60p and 80p exercisable over five years.

Once these deals have been finalised - probably before the end of this month - Mr Harding will become vice-chairman of Chelsea.

Mr Harding has been embroiled in a long-running boardroom battle with Mr Bates. Negotiations between the pair broke down in May when a deal for Mr Harding to invest £10m in the club in return for greater influence was scrapped.

In a separate development big-spending Newcastle United confirmed it had appointed stockbroker NatWest Markets to provide it with financial advice that may result in a stock market flotation.

Club chairman Sir John Hall hopes to turn Newcastle into a European-style total sporting club and has sought permission to build a new stadium across the River Tyne with seating for up to 80,000 at its St James' Park ground, more than double its current capacity.

And Leeds United is set to become a public company after the quoted sports and leisure group Caspian made a recommended cash offer, valuing the club at £16.5m. Caspian said it had entered into irrevocable undertakings and acquisition agreements with two directors of Leeds to buy 66 per cent of the club's shares at £2.5p per share.

Caspian will also subscribe £12m, taking its minimum shareholding to 79.1 per cent. The combined proceeds of £17.6m will be used to buy new players and develop Leeds' youth policy.

Caspian was named on Wednesday as preferred bidder for Leeds at a meeting of the club's board, despite a higher offer from Manchester-based leisure group Courard.

Sumitomo may have key memo on trades

The management at Sumitomo Corp has a personal memo from its fallen star copper trader Yasuo Hamanaka outlining unauthorised trades that cost the company an estimated \$1.5bn, Sumitomo sources said yesterday.

"When Hamanaka confessed his unauthorised copper trading to his supervisor Akio Imamura on 5 June, he handed him a personal memorandum," one of the sources said.

The sources said they had not seen the so-called "Hamanaka memo", whose contents remained a closely guarded secret, but they said it was thought to explain how he carried out his unauthorised trades over 10 years.

Whether the document indicates any specific names of metal trading companies outside Sumitomo could not be confirmed. After Hamanaka's unauthorised trades and massive losses came to light, Sumitomo also cancelled the scheduled promotion of Mr Imamura, general manager of its non-ferrous metals division, to managing director.

Meanwhile, Wolfgang Becker, a metals broker, expressed concern about what he said were unsubstantiated rumours about his business dealings with Chile's state-owned copper producer CODECO and Sumitomo of Japan. Mr Becker said in a statement that he had resigned from Merrill Lynch in 1995 to form his own commodity brokerage based in Hamburg.

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I would like to enter:

☐ 3 photographs for the Heart of Britain Competition and enclose £2

☐ 10 photographs for the Heart of Britain Competition and enclose £5

I agree to the terms and conditions detailed below:

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signed _____ Date _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Send completed entry form, photographs and a cheque or postal order (payable to Heart of Britain) to: HEART OF BRITAIN, DEPT 100, 100 BROADWAY, LONDON, E1C 1AT. Only black & white colour prints (max size 6" x 4") will be accepted. 2. Your name & address, the title of the photograph and preferred book chapter should be enclosed in the back of each photograph. You are advised to write first on a sticky label before attaching to the photograph. 3. Copyright in all photographs submitted is assigned to Royal Brompton Hospital NHS Trust. Photographs can not be returned. 4. Closing date for applications is 21 July 1996. 5. Judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entertained. 6. If you photograph is selected for inclusion in the book you will be contacted by 31 August 1996. 7. Receipt of postage is not receipt of delivery. 8. Damaged, defective or illegible entries will be discarded. 9. We reserve the right to alter photographs and their titles. 10. All entries will be dispatched within 28 days.

SO GET OUT THERE AND SNAP THE WINNER!

business

Vardy tanks up for further growth

Investors assessing yesterday's £27.3m cash call from Reg Vardy will be hoping the Sunderland-based motor dealer can repeat its performance since the last money-raising exercise in 1991. Over the intervening five years or so, the shares have outperformed the rest of the market by more than 50 per cent. Yesterday's modest 4p fall in the price to 332p suggests the market, at least, believes the group can maintain past performance.

Vardy is offering shareholders one new share at 300p for every five held. The cash will be used initially to reduce debt taken on as a result of last year's expansion programme, which added eight volume car dealerships and three BMW outlets in the South-east through the acquisition of Alwood. Vardy is being forced by the manufacturer's strict limits on ownership of dealers to sell on two of the latter three, in Slough and Maidenhead, to Henlys for around £8m.

But the double cash injection will leave Vardy well placed to pursue its already proven three-pronged strategy of developing a balanced portfolio of volume, specialist and second-hand outlets, while adding a new leg in contract hire aimed at smaller company customers. It is well-timed to coincide with the increasing desire by manufacturers to concentrate sales through fewer, stronger dealership groups, operating across wider territories. Vardy's aim is to grow its 41 outlets to 60 over the next two to three years.

What the group is capable of is demonstrated by last year's figures, which showed pre-tax profits roaring ahead 29 per cent to £14.2m in the 12 months to April.

Despite the inevitable launch and advertising costs of starting up five of last year's new dealerships from scratch, the new operations chipped in £1m to operating profits. Stripping out those and the two BMW outlets being sold, organic growth in the existing businesses pushed operating profits up by a fifth.

This year will be held back by the absence of a large chunk of Alwood, which chipped in profits of £1.3m in the 13 months to April. There will also be dilution from the new shares being issued, which are likely to keep earnings flat.

But Vardy has plenty going for it. Last year's move into second-hand car supermarkets under the MotorZone banner will consolidate the group's leadership of the used car market. Meanwhile, earnings growth from new sales should build steadily.

Finally, and most importantly, the market background remains promising,

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Belhaven 'ale and hearty

Long-established beer makers tend to command a fair degree of affection, so it is perhaps hardly surprising that shares in Belhaven Brewery have been priced at the top end of expectations. The shares in Scotland's largest and oldest independent brewer (established 1719) have been priced at 180p, valuing the company at £36.3m. The broker Charterhouse Tilney claims demand for the placing has been strong from institutions. But as with so many flotations, smaller investors will not be able to buy shares until they start trading on 12 July. The float will raise £21m net of expenses, of which £10m will be used to redeem preference shares and £11m to cut debts.

Belhaven's strength is its strong brand of ales, including Belhaven Best, which have helped a relatively small company grab an estimated 5 per cent of the Scottish ale market. As well as its cask-conditioned ales, Belhaven is also targeting the keg beer market and seeking to grow its range of bottled beers, such as St Andrew's Ale.

It intends to grow the estate from 67 managed and tenanted pubs. Some of the outlets have been converted to Scottish themes, including the more traditional St Andrew Taverns and the Droothie Neebors boozers aimed at the younger market (the name means Thirsty Neighbours).

The current management team has also had time to get to grips with a business which once had four chairmen in a single year. This was during a period when it was part of Control Securities, the vehicle of Ugandan businessman Nassim Virani.

The company's main difficulty is that it is operating in a highly competitive market dominated locally by Scottish & Newcastle, Britain's biggest brewer. However, Belhaven has signed a new agreement with Bass lasting until 2001

under which it can distribute Tennent's lager, the best-selling brand in Scotland. Last year the company made operating profits of £4.2m on sales of £29.6m. With historic earnings per share of 13.1p before exceptional items the shares will trade on a historic rating of 14. A discount to the sector, but not to be chased given its relative lack of exposure to the currently popular themed pub sector.

Pulp disaster for Inveresk

Inveresk, the Scottish specialty paper-maker, is typical of the new issues class of '93. Launched on the high tide of investor interest in stock-market flotations, a placing and intermediaries offer at 150p was more than six times oversubscribed and the shares quickly raced to a handsome premium.

Inveresk's fall from grace began a year ago, when soaring wood-pulp prices were blamed for a drop in profits. Yesterday it was what Inveresk called "the extremely rapid collapse" of those same wood-pulp prices that lay behind an interim pre-tax loss of £2.75m.

The shares closed down 3p at a new low of 119p on the news. The reason Inveresk was hammered so hard when pulp prices went up and down is an ill-timed acquisition, its first since becoming a public company. When it paid £33m for Alloa-based Weir last November it had to use up 16-weeks' supply of pulp bought at the top of the market. It is normal practice in the paper industry to buy four weeks ahead.

Disaster struck when pulp prices collapsed by over 50 per cent in the first quarter. Inveresk was left with 60 per cent of its first-half sales of £75.9m containing high-cost pulp. Worse, falling paper prices exacerbated the drop in sales volumes, which fell 14 per cent compared with the previous six months.

A maintained 1.93p interim dividend suggests Inveresk thinks the worst may be over, now that demand is increasing and pulp prices have stabilised. UBS expects full-year profits to fall from £8.3m to £2.5m before an exceptional £1.4m charge linked to restructuring at Weir. That puts the shares on a chunky forward ratio of 33-times forecast earnings.

Perhaps Inveresk was unlucky to be so exposed to what it calls "the unprecedented speed of these changes". But in suffering more than most, Inveresk has lost its reputation as a defensive paper stock and the downward re-rating may have further to go. Avoid for now.

Reg Vardy: at a glance

Market value: £187m, share price 332p

Five-Year record	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Turnover (£m)	178	205	298	377	575
Pre-tax profits (£m)	3.95	4.38	8.40	11.0	14.2
Earnings per share (pence)	7.4	7.1	12.9	16.4	21.3*
Dividends per share (pence)	4.0	4.2	4.6	5.8	6.5*

*Pre-rights

†Post rights

Net debt (cash) £m

Share price pence

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OGC warning fuels controversy over share sales

MAGNUS GRIMOND

OGC International, the second-biggest offshore services company in the North Sea, looked set to spark controversy yesterday after issuing a profits warning just months after directors made substantial profits from share sales.

The Aberdeen-based group saw its shares plunge 87p to 135p, just 5p above its flotation price three years ago, on news that it had failed to win several large North Sea contracts, while warning that others would be delayed at a time of tightening margins. Against previous expectations by analysts that profits this year would match the £14.2m for 1995 announced in March, UBS, OGC's own brokers, are understood yesterday to have halved their forecast for the current year to £7m.

OGC said it hoped to maintain the dividend at last year's level of 6.3p a share.

OGC INTERNATIONAL

share price, pence

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Sir Richard Morris, another non-executive, who sold his entire holding of 3,000 shares at 221p for £6,630. He has subsequently announced his intention to leave the board.

Those sales were followed up in May, when executive directors took advantage of the end of the three-year lock-in period to exercise their rights over options issued at 130p at a time when the shares were 250p, nearly double the current price. John Hyslop, managing director, exercised his right over 150,000 options, making a paper profit of £180,000, and locked in most of his gain by immediately selling 120,000. Finance director Douglas Gill exercised 100,000 and sold 80,000, netting a notional £120,000, while Timothy Slatery sold all of his 100,000 options.

Philip Stevens, a director of corporate finance at UBS, which advises OGC, said he was satisfied the directors had had no inkling of what was coming



Cashing in: John Hyslop, managing director (left), and chairman Richard Wilson (second right), have profited from deals this spring

and pointed out they still retained substantial stakes in the company. The option sales had been made to pay capital gains tax liabilities. "They may have taken out a little bit of money, but it was only a little. We were very happy with that in the

circumstances when they did it." A spokesman for the company said the profits warning was prompted by several factors. AOC International, the main operating company, had been unsuccessful in bidding for three big North Sea contracts, two in

the Norwegian sector and one on the British side. Their loss had coincided with two or three other projects being put back by four to five months. The delay meant OGC would book only around 20 per cent of the anticipated income on the business.

On top of that, the so-called "cost reduction initiative for the new era" agreed between oil companies and contractors was continuing to squeeze margins. Overheads had been increased in the expectation of winning the North Sea business.

IN BRIEF

• CRH, the Irish building materials group, said it has bought the US roofing and insulation company Allied Building Products for £121m (£80m), including debts and deferred payments. CRH said the amount reflects the impact of high seasonal working capital on debt.

• The DTI has approved funding of up to £1.7m over the next three years for a Business Links network brokering scheme under which small firms in the South-west will share costs and work together to exploit business opportunities. It is hoped 850 businesses will be involved in the creation of 170 networks.

• Clubbans, the German sports firm, has agreed to buy Family Golf, a UK firm with two ranges in Aylesbury and Graveley for about £1.6m, together with a 50 per cent interest in NGH, a 36-hole golf facility in Hamburg. The Hamburg purchase, costing £3m, is from Alexander Baron von Spoercken, chairman of Clubbans.

• David Hudd has resigned as a non-executive director of Kinnick. The resignation is aimed at avoiding a conflict of interest with his position as chairman of rival leisure company Vardon.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Continental Group (F)	84.2m (97.0m)	-1.43m (-180m)	-27.5p (-350.0p) nil (-)	
Global Group (F)	28.0m (27.0m)	2.4m (-)	15.5p (130p)	7p (6.2p)
Hartley Group (F)	35.3m (30.0m)	-5.10m (-4.3m)	-82.82p (-53.7p)	5.5p (5p)
Home Workings (F)	0.50m (0.25m)	-0.22m (-0.01m)	-1.42p (-0.18p)	nil (-)
Inveresk (F)	78.9m (61.2m)	-2.75m (-0.71m)	-3.7p (6.3p)	1.93p (1.93p)
Jays Hotel (F)	849.3m (841.3m)	89.51m (86.02m)	116.8p (115.6p)	85.3p (85.6p)
Reef Group (F)	507m (584m)	14.2m (11.0m)	21.3p (16.4p)	nil
(F) = Fiscal, nil = nil/mnil, (F) = 15 months (12 months)				

market report/shares

Eurotherm odd man out as blue chips bound ahead

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year



Eurotherm, the electronic group, blew a fuse when its highly regarded chief executive, Claes Hultman, said he was quitting.

Since he arrived five years ago the group has made spectacular progress with profits surging from £7.2m to £34.1m and the shares moving from less than 100p to 644p earlier this year. Yesterday the Hultman shock left them 73p down at 515p.

Mr Hultman, a Swede, said: "I've enjoyed my time as chief executive. But my job there is complete and it is time for others to lead it in its next phase of growth."

The warm words were, however, unable to stifle a stock market suspicion the departure was not entirely harmonious. Mr Hultman would have liked to become chairman but he was denied the role. The company said it was not surprised by Mr Hultman's departure.

Coinciding with the Hultman exit, SBC Warburg resigned as one of Eurotherm's stockbrokers. Quite clearly there has been a disagreement; over what is not clear. Henderson Crosthwaite remains as a company broker and a search is on for a Warburg replacement.

Mr Hultman has a much more high-profile job to concentrate on. Last year he became chairman of Wembley, the national stadium that had fallen on hard times, and his new lease of life, underlined by Euro 96, owes much to the determination of the Swede. But there is talk he has his sights set on another build-up situation.

Eurotherm was one of the most spectacular losers on a day when the market was in an exuberant mood. Technical factors, however, were far more important than such old-fashioned influences as investment buying. With US interest rates not being increased - and New York closed - circumstances were just right for a squeeze; hence the FTSE 100 index soared 46.5 points to 3,760.5, its biggest advance since January.

Today's publication of the US non-farm employment figures. In recent months these statistics have had a considerable impact on the market and there is trepidation they could again create turbulence.

Zeneca, the drugs group shot ahead on a cocktail of bid talk and its recent drugs progress; the shares gained 11p to 1,441p, a peak. Glaxo Wellcome, up 22.5p to 889.5p, responded to hopes of favourable comments at an AIDS conference and Beckett & Colman added 10p to 698p on talk of a takeover strike from one of the leading US health groups.

Chelsea Village, the football club, jumped 23p to a 91p peak as Matthew Harding, the director who had seemed sidelined by chairman Ken Bates, lifted his take to 26 per cent. Messrs Harding and Bates are to get options to buy at between 60p and 80p.

Danka Business Systems remained in the doldrums, off 15p to 433p, but Betterware, the direct selling group which slumped to 42p a year ago, coo-

tinued its steady but remorseless revival; the shares climbing 4.5p to 111p. After a tough run when profits crashed from £14m to just over £1m it has staged a strong recovery with profits in its last year coming out at £9.3m.

Cadbury Schweppes edged forward 2.5p to 512p with Lehman Brothers saying buy and Warburg suggesting a sale into strength.

United Biscuits' meetings with analysts took a positive turn with the shares up 6p to 222p. Pilkington, the glass maker, also seemed to be belatedly getting its message across, gaining 5p to 188p.

Liberty International, once the Transatlantic insurance group, fell 20p to 360p as the market was caught napping by a significant share sale. One story was that Minorco had decided to dump at least some of its indirect shareholding. United News & Media eased

10p to 670p on rumours of profit downgradings and RTZ dropped 15p to 945p with Kleinwort Benson and UBS said to be negative.

BTG, the old British Technology Group, jumped 200p to 1,875p, reflecting the removal of a share overhang; OGC International, an oil and gas services group, slumped 87p to 135p on a profit warning.

AFA Systems, a financial software group, made an encouraging debut, up 16p from the 120p placing. Concurrent Technologies, introduced at 15p, ended at 17p.

Examex, an aggregates operation, soared 13p to 48p on the bid from French group Lafarge. Redland, which mounted a hostile bid earlier this year, is sitting on 41 per cent.

Clubhaus, the golf group, rose 1.75p to 7.5p following a £7.4m placing and open offer to acquire two UK golf centres and a German golf project.

Ferrum, an engineer, suffered a rush of investment blood. In busy trading the shares jumped 3.25p to 8p as speculators climbed on board, anticipating corporate action. The reported publication of the yearly accounts merely added to the excitement. The shares suffered the dubious distinction of being the market's worst performers last year, falling 94 per cent. The company sold loss makers but was left with too much debt for comfort. The buyers were banking on an injection which could transform the outlook.

Gibbon, the printing ink and graphic supplies group, edged ahead 2p to 174p following profits up 17 per cent to £2.4m. Current year's figures should top £2.6m. The company is looking for acquisitions, here and on the Continent.

DATA BANK

FTSE 100
3760.6 +46.5

FTSE 250
4371.1 +4.9

FTSE 350
1892.0 +18.7

SEAD VOLUME
626.6m shares
28,128 bargains

Share Index
15.62 +0.22

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

1992				1991				1990				1989				1988				1987				1986				1985				1984				1983				1982				1981				1980				1979				1978				1977				1976				1975				1974				1973				1972				1971				1970				1969				1968				1967				1966				1965				1964				1963				1962				1961				1960				1959				1958				1957				1956				1955				1954				1953				1952				1951				1950				1949				1948				1947				1946				1945				1944				1943				1942				1941				1940				1939				1938				1937				1936				1935				1934				1933				1932				1931				1930				1929				1928				1927				1926				1925				1924				1923				1922				1921				1920				1919				1918				1917				1916				1915				1914				1913				1912				1911				1910				1909				1908				1907				1906				1905				1904				1903				1902				1901				1900				1899				1898				1897				1896				1895				1894				1893				1892				1891				1890				1889				1888				1887				1886				1885				1884				1883				1882				1881				1880				1879				1878				1877				1876				1875				1874				1873				1872				1871				1870				1869				1868				1867				1866				1865				1864				1863				1862				1861				1860				1859				1858				1857				1856				1855				1854				1853				1852				1851				1850				1849				1848				1847				1846				1845				1844				1843				1842				1841				1840				1839				1838				1837				1836				1835				1834				1833				1832				1831				1830				1829				1828				1827				1826				1825				1824				1823				1822				1821				1820				1819				1818				1817				1816				1815				1814				1813				1812				1811				1810				1809				1808				1807				1806				1805				1804				1803				1802				1801				1800				1799				1798				1797				1796				1795				1794				1793				1792				1791				1790				1789				1788				1787				1786				1785				1784				1783				1782				1781				1780				1779				1778				1777				1776				1775				1774				1773				1772				1771				1770				1769				1768				1767				1766				1765				1764				1763				1762				1761				1760				1759				1758				1757				1756				1755				1754				1753				1752				1751				1750				1749				1748				1747				1746				1745				1744				1743				1742				1741				1740				1739				1738				1737				1736				1735				1734				1733				1732				1731				1730				1729				1728				1727				1726				1725				1724				1723				1722				1721				1720				1719				1718				1717				1716				1715				1714				1713				1712				1711				1710				1709				1708				1707				1706				1705				1704				1703				1702				1701				1700				1699				1698				1697				1696				1695				1694				1693				1692				1691				1690				1689				1688				1687				1686				1685				1684				1683				1682				1681				1680				1679				1678				1677				1676				1675				1674				1673				1672				1671				1670				1669				1668				1667				1666				1665				1664				1663				1662				1661				1660				1659				1658				1657				1656				1655				1654				1653				1652				1651				1650				1649				1648				1647				1646				1645				1644				1643				1642				1641				1640				1639				1638				1637				1636				1635				1634				1633				1632				1631				1630				1629				1628				1627				1626				1625				1624				1623				1622				1621				1620				1619				1618				1617				1616				1615				1614				1613				1612				1611				1610				1609				1608				1607				1606				1605				1604				1603				1602				1601				1600				1599				1598				1597				1596				1595				1594				1593				1592				1591				1590				1589				1588				1587				1586				1585				1584				1583				1582				1581				1580				1579				1578				1577				1576				1575				1574				1573				1572				1571				1570				1569				1568				1567				1566				1565				1564				1563				1562				1561				1560				1559				1558				1557				1556				1555				1554				1553				1552				1551				1550				1549				1548				1547				1546				1545				1544				1543				1542				1541				1540				1539				1538				1537				1536				1535				1534				1533				1532				1531				1530				1529				1528				1527				1526				1525				1524				1523				1522				1521				1520				1519				1518				1517				1516				1515				1514				1513				1512				1511				1510				1509				1508				1507				1506				1505				1504				1503				1502				1501				1500				1499				1498				1497				1496				1495				1494				1493				1492				1491				1490				1489				1488				1487				1486				1485				1484				1483				1482				1481				1480				1479				1478				1477				1476				1475				1474				1473				1472				1471				1470				1469				1468				1467				1466				1465				1464				1463				1462				1461				1460				1459				1458				1457				1456				1455				1454				1453				1452				1451				1450				1449				1448				1447				1446				1445				1444				1443				1442				1441				1440				1439				1438				1437				1436				1435				1434				1433				1432				1431				1430				1429				1428				1427				1426				1425				1424				1423				1422				1421				1420				1419				1418				1417				1416				1415				1414				1413				1412				1411				1410				1409				1408				1407				1406				1405				1404				1403				1402				1401				1400				1399				1398				1397				1396				1395				1394				1393				1392				1391				1390				1389				1388				1387				1386				1385				1384				1383				1382				1381				1380				1379				1378				1377				1376				1375				1374				1373				1372				1371				1370				1369				1368				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Stock	Price	Change	Vol	Stock	Price	Change	Vol
International							
Glaxo	170.00	+1.00	150	Glaxo	160.00	+0.50	140
Unilever	180.00	+2.00	160	Unilever	170.00	+1.00	150
BT	12.00	+0.10	100	BT	11.00	+0.05	90
Debenhams	10.00	+0.10	80	Debenhams	9.00	+0.05	70
Next	9.00	+0.05	70	Next	8.00	+0.05	60
British Airways	10.00	+0.10	80	British Airways	9.00	+0.05	70
Thames Water	12.00	+0.10	90	Thames Water	11.00	+0.05	80
Unilever	180.00	+2.00	160	Unilever	170.00	+1.00	150
Debenhams	10.00	+0.10	80	Debenhams	9.00	+0.05	70
Next	9.00	+0.05	70	Next	8.00	+0.05	60
British Airways	10.00	+0.10	80	British Airways	9.00	+0.05	70
Thames Water	12.00	+0.10	90	Thames Water	11.00	+0.05	80

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Stock	Price	Change	Vol	Stock	Price	Change	Vol
Government Securities							
10 Year	100.00	+0.10	100	10 Year	99.00	+0.05	90
5 Year	95.00	+0.05	80	5 Year	94.00	+0.05	70
1 Year	90.00	+0.05	70	1 Year	89.00	+0.05	60
Mediums							
10 Year	100.00	+0.10	100	10 Year	99.00	+0.05	90
5 Year	95.00	+0.05	80	5 Year	94.00	+0.05	70
1 Year	90.00	+0.05	70	1 Year	89.00	+0.05	60
Longs							
10 Year	100.00	+0.10	100	10 Year	99.00	+0.05	90
5 Year	95.00	+0.05	80	5 Year	94.00	+0.05	70
1 Year	90.00	+0.05	70	1 Year	89.00	+0.05	60

Stock	Price	Change	Vol	Stock	Price	Change	Vol
Market leaders: Top 20 volumes							
BT	12.00	+0.10	100	BT	11.00	+0.05	90
Debenhams	10.00	+0.10	80	Debenhams	9.00	+0.05	70
Next	9.00	+0.05	70	Next	8.00	+0.05	60
British Airways	10.00	+0.10	80	British Airways	9.00	+0.05	70
Thames Water	12.00	+0.10	90	Thames Water	11.00	+0.05	80
Unilever	180.00	+2.00	160	Unilever	170.00	+1.00	150
Debenhams	10.00	+0.10	80	Debenhams	9.00	+0.05	70
Next	9.00	+0.05	70	Next	8.00	+0.05	60
British Airways	10.00	+0.10	80	British Airways	9.00	+0.05	70
Thames Water	12.00	+0.10	90	Thames Water	11.00	+0.05	80

Stock	Price	Change	Vol	Stock	Price	Change	Vol
FTSE 100 Index hour by hour							
Open 3728.5	11.00	3728.5	up 10	14.00	3760.5	up 22.5	
09.00 3728.5	12.00	3728.5	up 10	15.00	3760.5	up 22.5	
09.00 3728.5	13.00	3728.5	up 10	16.00	3760.5	up 22.5	
10.00 3728.5	14.00	3760.5	up 22.5	Close 3760.5	up 46.5		

Stock	Price	Change	Vol	Stock	Price	Change	Vol
Telecommunications							
BT	12.00	+0.10	100	BT	11.00	+0.05	90
Debenhams	10.00	+0.10	80	Debenhams	9.00	+0.05	70
Next	9.00	+0.05	70	Next	8.00	+0.05	60
British Airways	10.00	+0.10	80	British Airways	9.00	+0.05	70
Thames Water	12.00	+0.10	90	Thames Water	11.00	+0.05	80
Unilever	180.00	+2.00	160	Unilever	170.00	+1.00	150
Debenhams	10.00	+0.10	80	Debenhams	9.00	+0.05	70
Next	9.00	+0.05	70	Next	8.00	+0.05	60
British Airways	10.00	+0.10	80	British Airways	9.00	+0.05	70
Thames Water	12.00	+0.10	90	Thames Water	11.00	+0.05	80

Don't expect the regulators to prevent these frauds

A month without another financial crisis in the banking or securities markets is a rare event. Each time, it leads to demands for new controls, greater supervision and often for some new international body to oversee this or that market in the hope of preventing a repetition.

The Group of Seven industrialised countries reflected this determination to stay ahead of scandals such as Barings and Sumitomo by discussing ways to improve supervision of financial markets at the summit in Lyons last week.

Britain put forward a plan which gives a single regulator responsibility for co-ordinating international action if a multinational firm runs into trouble. "The idea is to make sure that something doesn't fall through the cracks," said one British official.

But the contrary view is gaining ground that there is too much concentration on detailed supervision, and too little reliance on market mechanisms to prevent disasters.

That line of argument is backed up by the fact that while there have been many of these disasters over the last 20 years, the real risks they bring to the financial system are actually much less than they appear.

Just as it needs a large number of road accidents to produce a reliable indication of the risks of driving, the majority of financial accidents have turned out to be minor collisions.

Even the equivalent of motorway pile-ups—the US Savings and Loans crisis, the Japanese banking losses and Mexico's financial crises—have been contained, and have certainly not brought the system down.

By far the commonest threat running through recent disasters is



FINANCIAL VIEW PETER RODGERS

fraud, the cause of most of the individual bank and trading company losses.

Sometimes fraud starts with outright theft on a grand scale, as at BCCI, the corrupt bank founded by Aga Hassan Abedi, or at Banco Ambrosiano, the Vatican bank that collapsed in 1981 after its boss, Roberto Calvi, was found hanged under Blackfriars Bridge. More commonly, it is a result of individuals gambling with their employers' money and getting in deeper to cover their losses, as Nick Leeson did at Barings and Yasuo

ferent markets to talk to each other more often. Poor liaison between Singapore and London was a feature of the Barings affair and similar difficulties between Japan, New York and London occurred with Sumitomo.

But these are contributory factors, delaying discovery, perhaps only by a matter of weeks in the Barings case, and they are certainly not the causes. Supervisors inevitably take a long way behind innovative criminals, and as a result are largely impotent in dealing with fraud.

Supervisors inevitably trail a long way behind innovative criminals

Hamamaka may have done at Sumitomo.

There is also a suspicion that Mr Hamamaka was able to operate the frauds that lost the company so much money only because senior management approved of his broader strategies for rigging prices in the copper market over a long period.

The most important practical lesson from these frauds is that they are about as preventable as a lightning strike and to ask supervisors to stop them happening is a waste of breath.

The frauds have thrown up several lessons, such as the need for banking and securities regulators in dif-

ferent areas where the supervisors' impact is much exaggerated where large losses result from shocks to the financial system. These cases are often muddled with frauds, because they produce, as a side effect, fertile conditions for crooks.

The myth about the US Savings & Loans debacle in the 1980s was that it was a massive fraud on the American public using taxpayer-guaranteed deposits. In fact, it was a combination of a speculative bubble with badly thought out and over-hasty deregulation of the savings industry.

The equally spectacular difficulties of the Japanese banking system

over the last five years have been a hangover from an enormous speculative binge in the late 1980s. It is hard to see how supervision of the banking and securities markets can deal effectively with the powerful forces at work in these cases.

Indeed, it is a rare disaster where market regulators take the lion's share of the blame. Lloyd's of London may be a candidate for this doubtful honour.

But whether or not they can be blamed for individual incidents, the most serious charge made against bank and securities supervisors is that they more vigorously do their jobs, the less banks, securities firms and their customers bother to do their own independent checks.

This much debated problem came to the fore most recently in the rescue of Mexico, orchestrated by the US Treasury, which feared horrible consequences for the world financial system if investors were not bailed out with a large international loan.

The Bundesbank was among those who doubted the wisdom of the rescue. It reflected the more sceptical view that rescues give investors a false sense of security. They undermine the incentive for other players in the marketplace to check out the performance of a company or a country before they put their money into it.

Mexico has had three crises in 15 years, and each time investors have ploughed money, happy in the knowledge that it is effectively underwritten by the US Treasury and the International Monetary Fund.

Even the Bank for International Settlements, which represents central bankers, has shifted away from the view that more supervision and regulation is the answer to every problem in the financial markets. It

last annual report urged "clearer signals from the authorities that the fate of financial institutions rests primarily in their own hands".

The idea that intensive and detailed supervision of the markets can be counter-productive is not a new one. Indeed, New Zealand has begun to put it into practice by cutting back on bank supervision and switching the emphasis of banking controls to disclosure.

If there is no market watchdog whose presence reassures investors that everything is all right, customers are forced to make proper assessments of the soundness of banks. If they have not got the resources themselves, they can use credit rating agencies. If investors get it wrong, it is their own fault.

New Zealand is hardly a big player in international markets, but the wind is beginning to blow its way. For example, international securities supervisors have given up hopes of setting out detailed regulation of the derivatives markets and have opted instead for greater disclosure, combined with attempts to check that banks' internal controls are adequate.

The supervisors themselves have also realised there is no point in pretending to be able to prevent problems that are outside their control. If they do, they get it in the neck when things go wrong.

There is a growing view that the best way to cope is not to keep writing new rulebooks but to give more responsibility to the markets, which have turned out to be pretty good at handling defaults and crises.

The corollary is that more firms in trouble will be allowed to fail, to drive home the lesson to international investors that they, not the supervisors, are the last line of defence.



Aga Hassan Abedi: BCCI, which he founded, was a corrupt bank where fraud started with outright theft.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1580.3	5.5	7.4	1000	—	—
Canada	2221	11.3	30.37	13585	2.1	2.0
Germany	23770	48.41	140.70	12225	26.94	84.91
France	80584	122.13	365.34	5507	73.68	217.07
Italy	23857	47.73	142.96	2231	44.51	123.16
Japan	172.1	75.20	225.28	1038	45.44	136.13
ECU	12834	15.11	45.40	12449	7.8	23.25
Belgium	48285	120.7	362.25	13585	26.94	84.91
Denmark	8523	122.13	365.34	5507	73.68	217.07
Netherlands	28897	65.57	157.74	17081	35.32	107.02
Ireland	09750	7.5	20.14	10003	4.7	12.07
Norway	1037	120.50	360.00	6470	42.17	10.60
Spain	18932	21.91	69.98	12314	23.27	64.72
Sweden	10370	10.71	31.41	14349	28.23	4.50
Switzerland	15950	54.48	125.22	12549	37.34	15.07
Australia	18932	20.91	67.95	12749	19.21	54.65
Hong Kong	21077	10.61	224.70	7408	2.2	15.35
Malaysia	33962	0.0	0.0	24807	4.14	60.80
New Zealand	22746	49.57	138.16	1457	30.32	89.80
Singapore	54520	0.0	0.0	1415	41.30	103.88

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	15586	0.9587	Nigeria	18235	813400
Austria	13268	0.8710	Oman	10870	—
Brazil	13392	1.0048	Pakistan	547225	350449
China	129445	8.3202	Philippines	40894	282600
Egypt	33371	3.4407	Portugal	24479	265600
Finland	72857	4.6557	Russia	55786	3640
Ghana	294745	35500	Saudi Arabia	80759	578300
Guatemala	373435	43435	South Africa	67708	—
India	54782	35900	Taiwan	27340	—
Kuwait	04880	0.2999	UAE	57322	36731

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; subtract from spot rate
rate quoted low to high are at a premium; add to spot rate
Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals
For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0911 323 0333.
Calls cost 36p per minute (cheaper rates) 48p other times.

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base	5.75%	Discount	5.75%
Prime	5.75%	Discount	5.75%
Overnight	5.75%	Discount	5.75%
10yr	7.00%	10yr	7.00%
30yr	7.00%	30yr	7.00%

Bond Yields

Country	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr	30yr
UK	7.1%	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	7.5%
Germany	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%	6.2%
France	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%	6.2%
Italy	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
Spain	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
Belgium	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
Netherlands	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
Sweden	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
Denmark	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
Switzerland	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
Australia	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
New Zealand	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%

Money Market Rates

Overnight	1 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
UK	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Germany	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
France	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Italy	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Spain	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Belgium	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Denmark	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Australia	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
New Zealand	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%

Tourist Rates

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
UK	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Germany	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
France	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Italy	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Spain	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Belgium	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Netherlands	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Sweden	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Denmark	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Switzerland	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Australia	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
New Zealand	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long GB	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short GB	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Long US	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short US	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25

Life FT-SE Index Option

Series	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
July	3700	3700	3700	3700
Aug	3700	3700	3700	3700
Sept	3700	3700	3700	3700
Oct	3700	3700	3700	3700

Energy

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long Oil	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short Oil	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Long Gas	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short Gas	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25

Commodity Indices

Index	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
July	3700	3700	3700	3700
Aug	3700	3700	3700	3700
Sept	3700	3700	3700	3700
Oct	3700	3700	3700	3700

Industrial Metals

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long Al	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short Al	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Long Cu	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short Cu	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25

Precious Metals

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long Au	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short Au	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Long Ag	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short Ag	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25

Agricultural

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long CB	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short CB	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Long W	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short W	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25

Other Softs

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long S	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short S	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Long T	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25
Short T	98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers AXA Equity &																			

Boardman frustrated by rain

Cycling

ROBIN NICHOLL
with the Tour de France

There is a down-side to jubilation. Especially when a competitor has peaked with Olympic gold, a world record, and a yellow-jersey winning debut in the Tour de France. Like Chris Boardman.

His team-mate Stephane Heulot is wearing the leader's colours, Frederic Moncassin has switched from yellow to the green jersey of top points-scorer, and their GAN squad is the top team of the Tour. The Briton is the team leader, and he is frustrated. "I am just not firing. I am missing about five per cent of my form and in the Tour you need 110 per cent."

"It is annoying and I cannot find any reason for it. I am not ill. At first I thought my chest infection had returned. I reached a peak and then I went backwards."

"As an individual who likes to win it is harder to face when your team-mate has the yellow jersey. I am happy for him and it is great for the team, but it is difficult for me to accept."

"Stephane is going great, so I will be working for him, but I am missing that bit of form."

Yesterday at Besancon the Dutchman Jeroen Blijlevens beat Moncassin in the victory sprint. Heulot is realistic about Tour life. "I am living a dream. I just hope that it will last as long as possible."

Success has not spoiled Boardman. The consuming urge to triumph is what has helped drive him to the pinnacle. Anything less feels like failure.

His consolation is that there is still time to pick up the missing pace. "It depends how the racing develops. If you have to work hard for a few days you cannot get into the race. You just take more of a hammering than the others."

With rain lashing the huddled spectators between splashes of sunshine, the day was not to Boardman's liking. "The weather is depressing, and it is dangerous all day. We are riding on our nerves," he said as the wind whipped up waves on the Madine lake at the start. "If you haven't got the legs to zip around and you make one mistake it's pretty final."

Villages around the route summed up the day admirably as Gray was followed by Void, before later turning right for Miserey.

The race speed just crept past 26kph in the first hour which after Wednesday's 40kph was disheartening particularly for the soaked crowds who had to wait longer for a glimpse of their favourites as the race passed by.

Those who blinked at the Tour passed on Wednesday

missed it. "Roger Legeay (the GAN manager) has never seen pace like that," Boardman said. "We averaged 60 kph for an hour in strong cross and headwinds."

Yesterday was different, and the riders finished an hour behind schedule. The day opened with Mario Cipollini, Monday's stage-winner, withdrawing because of a high temperature and further down the road to Besancon Jan Svoboda, the Czech who bounced at Wednesday's finish, pulled

out. Both have Georgia on their minds, and Cipollini declared that once he was better he would be training hard for the Olympic road race.

Their departure opened the way for Blijlevens. After two second places in sprints he broke through after 342 kilometres, punctuated by solo bids and several crashes.

After Vyacheslav Eklidov had tried twice to open Russia's account, Moncassin hit the front 500 metres from the line, but there was no holding Blijlevens. TOUR DE FRANCE fifth stage (142km, Lac de Madine to Besancon): 1. J. Blijlevens (Neth, TTM) 55m 53 sec; 2. F. Moncassin (Fr, GAN); 3. C. Zabel (Ger, Deutsche Telekom); 4. M. Tassinari (It, Comer); 5. D. Aldous (Aus, Telstra); 6. A. Fungaro (It, Rosengarten); 7. F. Baccini (It, Team Telekom); 8. C. Dierckx (Bel, Bpost); 9. M. Winkler (It, Götter); 10. S. Zanardi (It, Pinar); 11. A. Poles (Lith, Rabobank); 12. A. Tondello (It, Team Telekom); 13. E. Vliegenhart (Fr, Festina); 14. F. Simon (Fr, GAN); 15. L. van den Beld (Neth, TTM); 16. G. Nivard (Bel, Bpost); 17. R. Baccini (It, Team Telekom); 18. M. Pocius (Lith, Bpost); 19. R. Baccini (It, Team Telekom); 20. S. Zanardi (It, Pinar); 21. S. Zanardi (It, Pinar); 22. S. Zanardi (It, Pinar); 23. S. Zanardi (It, Pinar); 24. S. Zanardi (It, Pinar); 25. S. Zanardi (It, Pinar); 26. S. 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THIRD TEST: Tendulkar makes England captain pay for dropped catch on nought by scoring second century of series

The brave Bengali tiger cuts loose again

Ganguly back from wilderness

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Trent Bridge
India 287-2 v England

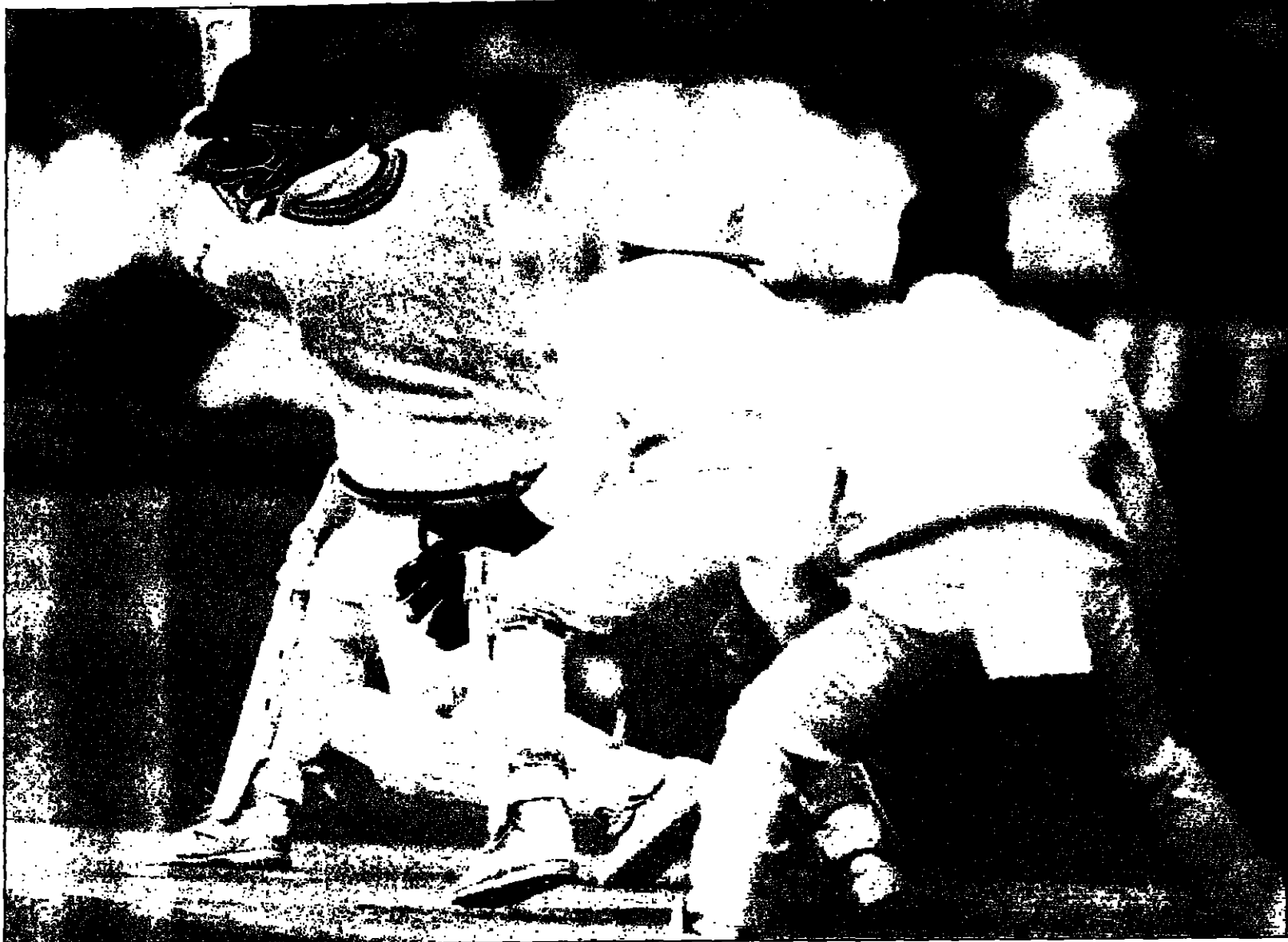
Two unbeaten centuries, by Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly, have put India into an almost indomitable position after the first day of this final Test. But if regrets were few for India, England will look back to the moment when their captain dropped Tendulkar in the gully before he had scored. Unless wickets tumble quickly this morning, his team are likely to spend the rest of this match fighting to prevent India from levelling the series.

Handing such good fortune to a batsman of his calibre at any time is an expensive habit. On a pitch as bland as this it is cricketing suicide, and England's bowlers were made to toil long and hard paying for Mike Atherton's folly. To add insult to some already injured pride, hardly a ball was missed and England's play of strengthening their bowling looked misguided.

Ganguly certainly thought so as he cut and drove England's attack to distraction. This is the 23-year-old Bengali's second Test and he celebrated by scoring a second century. It is an achievement that leaves the left-hander from Calcutta in some pretty esteemed company, and he joins the West Indians Lawrence Rowe and Alvin Kalicharran as the only other players to have scored successive hundreds in their first two Test innings.

One has perhaps come to expect big scores from Tendulkar, and yet considering Ganguly started this tour tagged as a token political selection made to appease the powerbrokers of Indian cricket in Calcutta, his form has been nothing short of a revelation. The people of Bengal have, at long last, a champion of their own to cheer. As India's most audacious cricket fans, they will have particularly enjoyed his cheeky six off Min Patel, from the penultimate over of the day. A shot that brought a swift rebuke from his partner who pointed to an imaginary watch on his wrist.

In between the milestones, spectators were treated to some sublime batting and there was little to choose between the hundreds. Apart from Tendulkar's early dose of good fortune - he also played a ball from Mark Ealham on to his stumps when



Saurav Ganguly drives Min Patel during his second successive hundred in his second Test match at Trent Bridge yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

he was 10 - there were no great anomalies in scoring rates, with Ganguly taking 22 balls more to reach three figures.

Both innings, however, were completed with a grace and timing of shot that was both wistful and Indian and yet somehow classically textbook as well. The pair left England helpless in their thrall and their unbeaten stand of 254 is the highest by either side so far in the series.

The duo complemented each other well and England's bowlers, especially Patel, were constantly being tested with the shifting line demanded to keep a right and left-handed batsman batting together, in check. He was not the only one to struggle and, just after lunch,

Tendulkar took such a liking to Dominic Cork, that he took 29 off 16 balls unleashing a thrilling array of off-side drives.

Cork's response was untypical and he immediately hobbled off to have a pesky toe nail clipped. In the morning, one of his overs had spanned 30 minutes, rain suspending play for twenty-nine of them, after his first ball had removed Vikram Rathore, caught behind by Jack Russell for four.

Soon after Chris Lewis had Nayan Mongia also held by Russell after an edged drive had rebounded off Graeme Hick at second slip. It was the same height as the chance Hick spilled at Lord's, though this time he had to go to his left,

where something of a blind spot appears to exist.

England, who opted for Ealham instead of Ronnie Irani, could not have wished for a more decisive start. With the ball still hard, another wicket would have dented India's confidence and pushed them on to the back foot.

That chance came almost immediately, as Tendulkar cut upshippily at Lewis, sending the ball rocketing towards Atherton's thigh at gully. His anguish at spilling the chance was plain to see and it was not until Tendulkar was caught off a Cork no-ball just before the close that another mistake was made.

To be fair, on a blustery day England did not bowl all that badly and Lewis and Alan

Mullaly in particular bowled well in unhelpful circumstances. After lunch, the left-arm manfully got through an eight over spell without ever looking threatening. During such passages, unless a wicket looks likely, it is imperative for a captain to give his bowlers short sharp spells. Atherton did not and he let the game and his bowlers drift, with Ealham sending down just 12 overs.

The inclusion of Ealham was by all accounts a strongly debated decision. But whereas the Kent all-rounder celebrated his first day of Test cricket with a character-building 0-35, Irani was returned to the Essex side at Grace Road, where he fared little better, by scoring nought.

Trent Bridge scoreboard

India	England
1st Innings	1st Innings
287-2 (48.0 overs)	100-0 (10.0 overs)
Sachin Tendulkar 100 (110 balls, 12 fours, 1 six)	Mark Ealham 100 (110 balls, 12 fours, 1 six)
Saurav Ganguly 100 (110 balls, 12 fours, 1 six)	Min Patel 100 (110 balls, 12 fours, 1 six)
Virat Kohli 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)	Chris Lewis 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)
V.V. Kohli 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)	Chris Lewis 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)
Yashvir Jaiswal 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)	Chris Lewis 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)
Arjun Tendulkar 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)	Chris Lewis 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)
Pravin Tambe 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)	Chris Lewis 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)
Sanjay Manjrekar 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)	Chris Lewis 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)
Shreeves Naik 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)	Chris Lewis 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)
Harbhajan Singh 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)	Chris Lewis 50 (50 balls, 5 fours, 1 six)
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Oxford's caution results in time warp

Cricket

NORMAN HARRIS
reports from Lord's

Oxford Univ 513-6 dec & 63-0 dec
Cambridge Univ 164-3 dec & 271-6
Match drawn

There was some old-fashioned three-day cricket at Lord's first thing yesterday, though what it recalled was an unloved facet of the county game rather than the purer Varsity match. It was "declaration bowling".

Overnight there had evidently been a change of heart by an Oxford captain reluctant to risk his immensely strong position. But the agreement was still one in which he risked little: after a Cambridge declaration, Oxford would bat for half an hour and score 60 runs, leaving the Light Blues a target of around 410 in about five and a half hours.

The figure proved well out of reach, even with the launching pad of a comfortable 86-run opening stand. Thirteen overs lost to rain did not help, but Oxford would surely not have risked a great deal had they forfeited their second innings – and they would have given themselves a greater chance of victory.

Russell Cake and Ed Smith were unable to quite recapture the fluency of their first innings, but to some extent this was the result of the extreme angle of many deliveries from the left-arm Pierre du Preez. The batsmen were not tempted. Instead, several were cuffed wide.

It would hardly have been frustration, though, that caused Cake to call for what would always have been a tight single as Smith played to backward point. His run-out was an aberration, just as his opposite number's had been on the first day. Once again, all of Cambridge's leading batsmen made pleasant runs without going beyond the fifties. And again Anurag Singh looked the most exciting – especially with a huge back foot six to wide long-on off Du Preez – but then, not unusually, he drove casually to cover.

With the game nearing its end, Andy Whittall became the match's first batsman to get out in single figures as he slog-slogged half-heartedly to extra cover.

Oxford got a faint scent of victory when they took a sixth wicket for 203, with an hour to play. But that was all. In the end, the game that saw the Varsity match's record total, Oxford beating their 1910 score of 503, drifted to the same result as 96 years ago. As Wisden said of that game, it was "drawn due to heavy scoring... the wicket one of the best prepared at Lord's during the season, and the bowling looked comparatively harmless".

Cambridge openers Steve James and Hugh Morris both played unbeaten centuries in a so-called first day of the Britania Assurance County Championship match with Gloucestershire at Bristol.

Thurston steered their county to 35 in 72 overs against a bowing attack that made no impression on the flat wicket. There was no play until after lunch he to rain, although the wicket started dry under the covers.

The Glamorgan captain Matthew Maynard decided, at when he won the toss. The new Indian pace bowler County Walsh had only three runs, scored off him in an opening spell of five overs with a stiff breeze behind him. But later on when bowler got past the bat it was with a round of applause from the field.

For batsmen gave early half-chance and James had to survive an attempted stumping, but he quickly settled into a punishing routine. The first 100 took him 41 overs and the next 50 in another 13 before they decided to bat in just six.

He got there with the help of a new Symonds bowling session, who went for 18 in the over. The Anglo-Aussie was quickly replaced by Martin Butcher whose off-spin was at least as effective with 21 runs scored in 17 overs.

James was first to his 100, his 11th this season and 20th in his career, with 13 fours in four hours. Facing slightly fewer balls, Morris took 20 minutes longer, but the left-hander had boundaries in his century. By close James was on 114 with a partner having made 103.

Middlesbrough spend £7m on Ravanelli

Football
NICK DUXBURY

The arrival of Fabrizio Ravanelli at Middlesbrough for £7m yesterday was another pointer to the growing power of the Premiership on both the home front and in Europe.

At 27, the silver-haired Italian international is a gilt-edged striker, who may have been surplus to requirements at over-stuffed Juventus, but was coveted by other Italian clubs. That he chose the Premiership – along with a string of other front-line players in what is coming out to be a golden summer for overseas signings – shows that the game here is now operating on the same exalted level as Serie A – the big-money league of Europe.

Two years ago Ravanelli was swapping Turin for Teesside would have been laughed at. Then came the Brazilians Juninho and Branco, coupled with

a new stadium, a flood of cash from their share of satellite television with poms more to come, and Middlesbrough start looking less like Hartlepool United and more like Manchester United.

The change has not gone unnoticed in the City. Newcastle United are poised for a flotation that would value the club at £160m, second only to Manchester United at £268m. Tottenham Hotspur are valued at just under £100m and Chelsea £60m. Leeds United have just been bought for £20m by a media group and could follow Newcastle on to the Stock Exchange with a £16.5m valuation. Blood was spilled at the Premiership newcomers Leicester City, whose chairman had to step aside in favour of a consortium of hard-headed businessmen with money to burn.

Ravanelli – said by his new manager, Bryan Robson, to be "one of the best strikers in the world" – has signed a four-year

deal, which according to Italian sources will be worth £1.3m a year.

"You have to pay a lot of money to get this type of player but it is fantastic news for the club," said Robson, whose close-season spending has reached £11m following the £4m he spent in May to capture the 24-year-old midfielder Emerson from Porto.

Ravanelli said: "I can assure the supporters I will give the club 100% commitment in an effort to win trophies."

His fee is the third highest in English history, beaten only by Stan Collymore's £8.5m transfer to Liverpool and Faustino Asprilla's £7.5m move to Newcastle.

Ravanelli, who made two appearances in Euro 96, scored

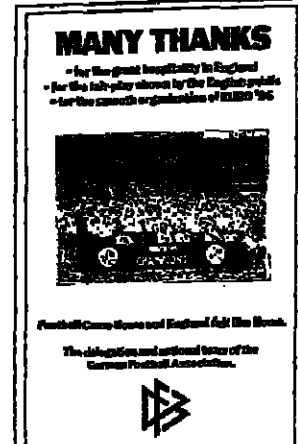
five goals in 11 appearances for the national side. His record in the Italian League is formidable with 118 goals in 301 games for Perugia, Avellino, Casertana (loan), Reggiana and Juventus. The Turin club paid £3m for his services in 1992 and last season he scored 22 goals, including one in the European Cup final when they defeated Ajax.

West Ham United also got in

on the act by breaking two records – their own transfer record by sealing the £2.4m signing of Florin Raducioiu from Espanyol – and the first British player to be signed on a free transfer under the Bosman rules in Michael Hughes.

The Northern Ireland winger comes from Strasbourg from whom he had been on loan for the last year and a half. Previously to the Bosman case, he would only have been allowed to leave for another French club on a free transfer but has now been able to join the Hammers.

The third signing is a free transfer – Mark Bowen, 33, who was released by Norwich because of financial pressures. Raducioiu, who scored Romania's only goal in Euro 96, admits his last year in Spain was not a good one. "I don't want to speak about that; it is the present and the future that is important. I am here to score goals."



Germany, the new European champions, have praised the organisers of Euro 96 – and paid £20,000 for the privilege. The German football federation took out a full-page ad (above) in the Times yesterday to say a public thank-you for the hospitality shown to them.

Europe's world influence eroded

Europe's influence in global football was weakened yesterday when Fifa, the sport's world governing body, expanded its executive committee from 21 members to 24, by giving more seats to Asia, Africa and Oceania.

The move was seen as a victory for the Fifa president, Joao Havelange, in his power struggle with Uefa's Lennart Johansson. Uefa, the European

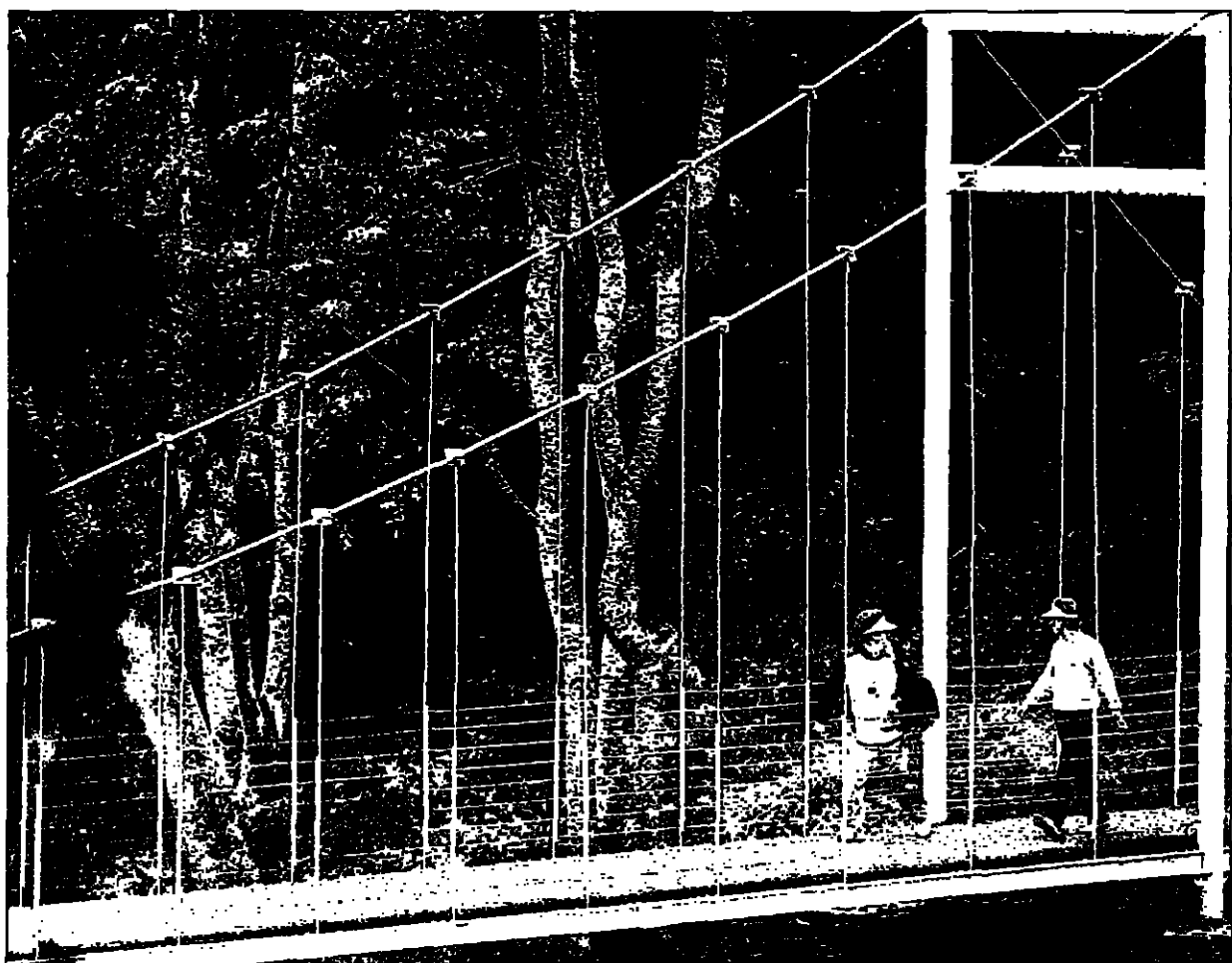
governing body, which has eight seats, will need more help from other confederations to win its arguments in the decision-making process.

Havelange and Johansson have come into conflict across the table several times in the past two years. Despite opposition from Havelange, Uefa forced a Fifa rule change last month to allow joint-hosting of the World Cup. South Korea

and Japan will do that in 2002.

Havelange also announced that beginning in 1999, Fifa would give \$1m (£640,000) to each member association over a four-year period. The total membership of Fifa is now 198.

Fifa also agreed to add to its membership Andorra, Anguilla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the British Virgin Islands, Guam and Montserrat. Palestine remains a provisional member.



Colin Montgomerie crosses the bridge at the ninth at the Druid's Glen Golf Club yesterday. Photograph: Allsport

Langer seeks rough justice

Golf
TIM GLOVER
reports from County Wicklow

Time was when Colin Montgomerie was in awe of Bernhard Langer, especially when they played together in the Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island in 1991. Yesterday they did not see eye to eye over the way Druids Glen has been set up for the Murphy's Irish Open.

Despite the fact that he hit the leaderboard with a 67, Langer remains unimpressed with the penal rough surrounding the greens. "You can get some horrible lies when you pitch out of that cabbage or whatever you call it," the German said. Cabbage? Sauerkraut would have been a better description.

"If we played on courses like this every week," Langer went on, "you would take shipping and pitching out of the game."

When he was reminded that Monty is all in favour of such courses, Langer responded: "He's not in charge."

When the Adams English Open was held at the Forest of Arden last month, Montgomerie had a say in how the course was prepared and the rough was allowed to grow in an attempt to replicate conditions at the US Open. Yesterday, Monty had a curt answer to Langer's own plan.

"The skill in golf," Montgomerie said, "is in hitting every fairway and every green so that you don't have to chip at all. I want players punished from the very first shot they hit. That'll go down well with the Professional Golfers' Association."

Montgomerie's philosophy, of course, is based on the fact that he is one of the straightest drivers in the game. However, when he went off line at the 13th he went to the Druid's Altar like a sacrificial lamb.

The 13th is a cracker, a par-four of 471 yards with a creek running down the right-hand side at the foot of what looks like the white cliffs of Dover. The drive, in fact, is the easiest part of the hole for the approach shot has to carry a lake and beyond that is a tiny landing area to the green.

Standing on the elevated tee, Monty took out the three wood and caught the ball on the toe of the club. It veered right of the creek and now he was at the cliff face. With a wedge he attempted to play the ball back across the stream to the safety of the fairway. But his left foot slipped and he missed the ball completely. "I went right underneath it and it didn't move at all," he said.

As if the air shot wasn't bad enough, Monty then thinned his ball into the creek. "So now I'm struggling," he said. He had 220 yards to the flag and he was playing his fifth shot. Finally, he holed from seven feet for a seven. At that point his trusty caddy Alistair Mackenzie took his life in his hands by remarking: "If you can win the tournament from here it'll do you the world of good."

Monty, who started the first round at the 10th, had three birdies in a row from the 15th and although he had another penalty drop at the first, he had three more birdies for a remarkable 69. "It would have been very easy to chuck the towel in," Montgomerie said, "but after missing the cut last week I was in no mood to do it again. It was a delight to play on such

a course. There are 18 good holes." And there's the 13th.

On a blustery day, only a handful of players finished under par and one of them was Gary Murphy, the 23-year-old former Irish amateur champion from Kilkenny. He got into the championship by sponsor's invitation and, given his name, it was a smart move. Murphy has been scratching a living on the minor Hippo tour in Britain.

"It's hard to make money," he said. The other day he was fourth in an event, won £440 and it cost him £150 to enter. Murphy, who shot a one under par 70, spent two and a half years at Augusta College, Georgia on a golf scholarship. "I got off to a bad start as an amateur," he said. He can say that again. A couple of years ago in Augusta Murphy and his partner Charlie Mulqueen (Cork Examiner) were beaten by Peter Corrigan (Independent on Sun-

day) and I at the 18th. If you can recover from that you can recover from anything.

What has sustained Murphy in his fledgling professional career has been the exploits this year of his friend Pádraig Harrington, but yesterday Harrington had problems of his own.

The Dubliner was going along swimmingly at level par when he knocked it into the water at the 13th. At the 14th he lost a ball up a tree and offered a spectator a tanner to shake it down. That had officials thumbing through the rule book and finally they decided that because the ball had been moved by an "outside agency", and because Harrington could not replace it 25 feet up the tree, he was allowed to invoke the unplayable ball rule. He did so under a one stroke penalty and took a double-bogey six.

Scores, Sporting Digest, page 24

Gunnell hopeful of going to Atlanta

Athletics

Sally Gunnell has been told she should be able to defend her Olympic 400 metres hurdles title in Atlanta despite breaking down during a race in Lausanne last night. A scan on her left foot has shown an inflamed heel, but no bone damage.

Gunnell was given an injection by her specialist, Roland Biedert, at his sports clinic in the Swiss mountains yesterday. Biedert, the team doctor for the Switzerland footballers at Euro 96, said Gunnell had to rest for a week and could then resume training.

"Sally has a good chance of competing in Atlanta. The next week will show how it turns out," Biedert said.

Gunnell, ruled out last season by a heel injury in her other foot, said: "It's great news there is nothing major wrong and there is no reason why a week off can't solve the problem. I have to go out there, put my foot on the line and give it everything and hope it's OK."

Gunnell starts her competition in just over three weeks, but insisted: "I still feel I have a chance of the gold. I am due a bit of luck and may be Atlanta is where I will find it."

Frankie Fredericks and Michael Johnson, currently the two outstanding sprinters in the

world, meet over 200m in Oslo today in which should be the best race of the Bissett Games.

The clash between Namibian Fredericks, the world's fastest man over 100m this year and the new world 200m record holder, opens the quest for a pile of gold bars worth \$125,000 (£78,000) in this season's Golden Four grands prix.

The Bissett Games are the first Golden Four meeting of the season followed by Zurich, Brussels and Berlin after the Atlanta Olympics this month.

Fredericks goes into the race just two days after destroying the fastest 100m field ever assembled and finishing just one-hundredth of a second outside Leroy Burrell's world record of 9.85sec at the Lausanne grand prix, despite running into a headwind. He clocked 19.95 in Paris last Friday over 200.

The American Johnson, aiming for a unique Olympic 200-400 double in Atlanta, broke Pietro Mennea's 17-year-old 200 record last month when he clocked 19.66sec. He clocked 43.66sec in Lausanne for his 54th successive one-lap victory, after virtually jogging the first half of the race.

While Fredericks and Johnson battle for supremacy in the 200, the defending Olympic champion, Linford Christie, will be looking for a morale-

boosting win in the 100m following defeats in Paris and Lausanne in the past week.

Christie, who has not clocked under 10 seconds this year, runs against his compatriot Darren Braithwaite and the American champion Dennis Mitchell, who clocked 9.97 in the Olympic trials last month.

Although the spotlight will be on the sprints, the famous Dream Mile returns to the timetable for the first time in two years.

The Britons Sebastian Coe, Steve Ovett and Steve Cram all set world records in the race in the 1970s and 1980s, and another world record attempt cannot be ruled out from the Algerian Noureddine Morceli.

In all 22 of the 35 fastest miles ever have been run on the Oslo track although no one has set a world record in the event since Cram 11 years ago.

Morceli, who set the current world record of 3min 44.39sec in Italy in 1993, will be paced by his brother Ali and fellow-Algerian Abdelkrim Benzai, and if the conditions are right, he could well try and improve on that mark. Thirteen world and Olympic champions are competing on Friday including sprinters Merlene Ottey, of Jamaica, and Gwen Torrence, of the United States, who resume their fierce rivalry over 200m.

Saints delay Goulding decision

Rugby League
DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens are likely to have to negotiate the trickiest hurdle separating them from the Super League title tonight without their inspirational captain, Bobbie Goulding.

Saints' coach, Shaun McRae, is giving Goulding, his scrum-half and goal-kicker, as long as possible to recover from damaged ankle ligaments in time to face the Bradford Bulls.

Goulding was on crutches earlier this week and must be

considered an extremely doubtful starter for a match Saints need to win if they are to preserve their one-point lead at the top of the table.

With Chris Joynt also doubtful, Keiron Cunningham has been named as one of Saints' youngest captains at the age of 19.

Two former St Helens players are set to miss the reunion with their old club. Bernard Dwyer has a strained hamstring and is replaced by Paul Medley, while Paul Loughlin was yesterday suspended for two matches for a high tackle against the London

Broncos last week. Loughlin will appeal today.

If Bradford can beat Saints, Wigan, at home to Castleford tonight, can not only be expected to go top but to stay there.

Paris St-Germain have had three players called up for national service in the French army. The Paris coach, John Kear, is hoping that Laurent Lucchesi, Freddie Banquet and Fabien Devauch, will be allowed on leave for the weekend.

The Warrington captain, Paul Cullen, has been suspended for two matches for a reckless, high tackle against Wigan last week.

Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 8. Vertical Robbery

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| David Bloxham who's | of the bar cultivating a | at his pile of coins he moves |
| partial to a pint of Ruddles | slightly gormless look. He | is, offering a wager as follows |
| County and doesn't mind | places a stack of 5p pieces in | — "I'll give you 5p for every |
| playing the fool to feed it, | front of him as he savours his | 50p you can stand upright on |
| has a habit of encouraging | pint of County. | its side on this bit of the bar" |
| visiting real ale drinkers to | Once a likely prospect is | "Easy" they say thinking |
| take part in a modest wager. | in range he engages them in | David must be a bit simple. |
| (which he usually wins) | apparently harmless | However David always |
| When he's in predatory | conversation, the weather, the | walks away a winner. |
| made our David takes up a | price of fish or the latest | How does he do it (without |
| strategic position at the end | scandal. As soon as they look | shaking the bar)? |



SPORT

FOOTBALL: Ravanelli moves to
Middlesbrough for £1mWIMBLEDON 96: Krajicek eliminates defending champion while Martin ends British hopes
Sampras makes exit along with Henman

JOHN ROBERTS

Tim Henman was in the very best of company yesterday when his inspiring campaign came to a halt. Pete Sampras, the men's singles champion for the past three years, was also eliminated in the quarter-finals.

Henman was defeated by Todd Martin, the American No 13 seed, 7-6, 7-6, 6-4, in a contest which produced only one break of serve but four separate breaks in play because of rain.

Sampras, who had been left teetering overnight, two sets to love down against Richard Krajicek, was unable to disturb the Dutchman's concentration when their match resumed on the Centre Court.

Krajicek, who was unseeded though ranked No 13 in the world, continued to pound down his serves, and broke the world No 1 in the seventh game to complete his victory, 7-5, 7-6, 6-4.

Notorious for once saying that the majority of women players were "lazy fat pigs", Krajicek has ensured that he will be remembered for something rather more positive.

His victory guarantees that a new name will be inscribed on the roll of honour, and it could well be his.

Sampras and Krajicek arrived on the Centre Court when the spectators were still absorbing Henman's performance against the unspectacular but rock-steady Martin. Henman's coach, David Felgate, put the defeat in perspective when he said, "It's no disgrace losing to him. He lost to a better player, a more mature player."

While disappointed not to have advanced to the last four, as Yorkshire's Roger Taylor did 23 years ago, Henman said, "I can reflect on the past 10 days as the greatest tournament of my career so far, and I hope that I have many more good Wimbledons, and better ones, in the future."

He added, "There was only one break in the whole of the match. There were chances there that unfortunately I didn't take. But, having said that, I think I lost to the better player on the day."

The 21-year-old from Oxford saved two break points before the majority of the spectators had arrived. He relieved the situation with a forehand volley and an unreturnable serve, ended the opening game with an ace.



Poignant moment: Britain's Tim Henman (right) congratulates Todd Martin on his straight-sets victory on Centre Court at Wimbledon yesterday

Photograph: David Ash

Having dealt efficiently with this early assault, Henman attacked Martin's serve. He was assisted by an overrule by the umpire, Britain's Gerry Armstrong, after a deep backhand down the line had been called out at deuce in the fourth game, but had no answer to Martin's serve on the break point.

Two consecutive aces enabled Henman to hold to love in the fifth game, after which Martin missed a lob in an attempt to parry a drive, and Henman prepared for his second opportunity to break. On this occasion, the American produced such a pacey volley on the backhand that his opponent was left with little option but to net his forehand response.

Henman continued to play the more enterprising tennis, and was rewarded with his first set point when leading 5-4. A confident return at 30-30 resulted in Martin mistiming a backhand half-volley long.

The opportunity evaporated before Henman was able to put a racket on the ball. Although Martin's first serve was called out by the centre line judge, the umpire overruled and the delivery counted as an ace.

Henman's returns created two more set points at 6-5. Martin saved the first with a serve which his opponent could not keep in play and the second with another winning delivery, this time to the backhand.

"When he's serving as big as he was," Henman reflected, "first and foremost I had to try to put the ball back in play, which unfortunately I couldn't do."

After those promising moments, the tie-break appeared to be running away from Hen-

man at 2-5, but he recovered impressively to level at 5-5. At that point, Martin powered down his third ace, and Henman double-faulted when trying to save the set.

He did not look comfortable when tossing the ball for the second serve in the blustery conditions, but went through with the delivery, which landed long. We're all prone to double-faults," he said afterwards. "Maybe I shouldn't have hit the ball when it was blowing about in the wind, but I served it and missed it."

Henman saved two break points in the second set. On the first occasion, in the fourth game, Martin hit a forehand return over the baseline - just.

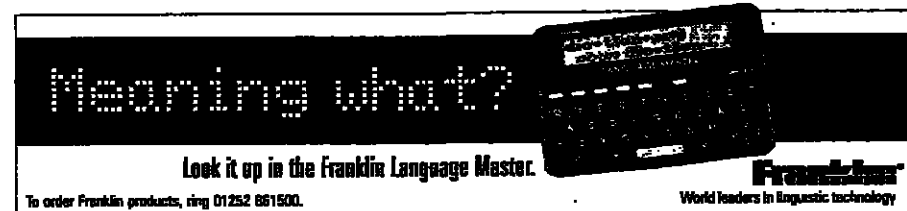
Play was interrupted for an hour and 26 minutes, with Martin leading 4-3 on serve, before the American's second opportunity to break came in the eighth game. Henman put a backhand half-volley wide on the third deuce point, and was relieved to see another of Martin's backhand returns land long.

The American whipped

through the second tie-break, allowing Henman only two points - one of them a double fault - before serving out with an ace.

Finally, between the second and third rain delays, we saw the only break of the match. Unfortunately for the partisans, it went against Henman in the fifth game of the third set. Although the Briton saved two of the points against him at 0-40, with an ace and a service winner, Martin passed him on the third with a backhand return off a second serve.

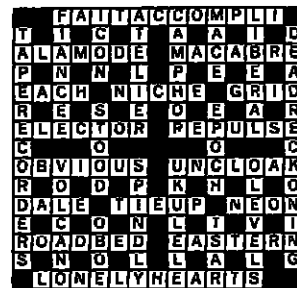
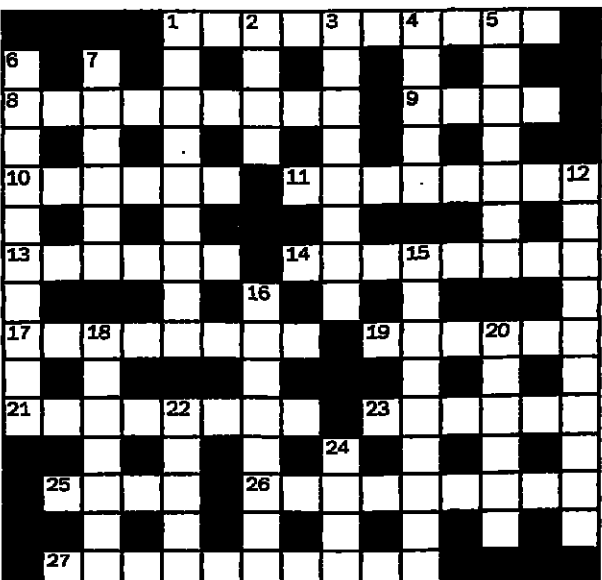
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



No. 3031, Friday 5 June

By Mass

Thursday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Ladder near Ben, set up for climber (6,4)
 - I'm in charge cutting metal frame (9)
 - Bundle's absorbed old dye (4)
 - A fellow in trouble gets jug (6)
 - Want support, including handle (8)
 - Rattle from loose steel nut (8)
 - Home turn for girl, forward in game (8)
 - States point in opposition (6)

- A drink associated with sleepiness? (8)
- Date, Eastern variety, about to be imported (6)
- City type's second nickname (4)
- Animal deity inhabiting river and brook (5,4)
- Drink with sparkle, and a crisp roll (6-1)
- Control police support (9)
- Pure bull! (4)
- Creature from Nepal, the abominable form (8)
- Subliminal Queen in retreat (5)
- Dedicated worker - after a check (7)

- Argument coming from girl's pad, audibly (10)
- Plant provides drive (with-out parking) (6)
- An elm-tree, diseased: last of decay's plain (10)
- Woman's reported sink and tap (9)
- Act wrongly? How not to land a job? (8)
- More competitive match, we hear, with short interval (7)
- Firm carried out search (6)
- Hybrid has to travel in vessel (5)
- Board's curtailed project (4)

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Minute-by-minute on a day of frustration

A tale of dawn to defeat for Britain's No 1. Richard Edmondson reports

It was a busy day at the office for Britain's No 1. This is yesterday's diary of Tim Henman, aged 21 and three-quarters.

7.05: Tim Henman wakes up and prepares for a match as normal. "I went through the same routine as I had for the last 10 days." Does not read the newspapers, as has been his custom all fortnight, so misses being informed that the cold hearts of the bookmaking world make him an 11-4 shot, with his opponent Todd Martin a 1-4 chance.

10.58: Henman, 21 and 6ft 1in, walks out on to Centre Court with 6ft 6in Martin, who is 26 on Monday. They look like uncle and nephew.

11.06: Henman wins toss and serves. Dumps half-volley into the net to lose first point.

11.09: Wins first service game with an ace. There is not a great deal of clapping because there is not a great deal of crowd.

11.21: Martin, who talks like Clint Eastwood and looks like a giant redwood, queries his first line call. His eyes are almost on a level with Gerry Armstrong's in the umpire's eyrie.

11.35: Martin serves first double-fault. Some cads desert tradition and start applauding, but the American does not hear them. "I was really relieved when I double-faulted for the first time that nobody clapped."

11.40: Henman has ordered a takeaway. A hand of bananas is transported to him on a black plate by a ballgirl.

11.43: Henman loses a set point, the first of three he squanders.

11.55: First tie-break. Henman loses first point to go behind for the first time in the match. He is never in front again.

12.01: Henman double-faults to lose the first set, which has taken 55 minutes.

12.05: Martin wins the first game of second set to love as it becomes a bad day for wigs. The American's hair is blown into a nest arrangement, which could spell trouble for someone's height.

12.15: Roger Taylor, the last Briton to reach a men's quarter-final, in 1973, leaves his seat for an undisclosed destination.

12.33: Henman trails 3-4, 0-15, when light drizzle sends players from the court.

1.03: Play resumes. Rog is back.

1.09: Henman holds his serve at 4-4 despite having a break point against him. Slaps his thigh in self-congratulation, the nearest he gets to emotion.

1.22: Second set tie-breaker. Henman poses little threat and capitulates in a 7-2 reverse.

Both men suggest a tie-break is a game of chance. Henman calls it "a penalty shoot-out", Martin "a crapshoot".

1.31: The umbrellas go up again.

2.47: They come down after a suspension of over an hour and a quarter.

2.57: Henman shows signs of tossing it all away. He catches one throw-up at 30-40 and when he finally serves Martin breaks for 3-2 with a backhand down the line. It is the first time a service game has been lost in the match.

3.02: Martin leads 4-2 as another squall arrives.

3.46: Players return to a crowd which realises Henman is in the last throes. The many voices shouting his name have a range from the convent school to the dockyard.

3.53: At 5-3 to Martin, yet another shower intervenes.

5.36: Players return to a Centre Court covered in sunshine.

5.41: Henman holds his serve but Martin serves out to love to complete a 7-6, 7-6, 6-4 victory.

5.49: Henman is quickly into the interview room. "After the last two games it wasn't as if I needed to go and shower." He is disappointed but pleased with his tournament. "I've shown that I can compete with some of the very top players, and now I think it's my job, my aim, to go and join them."

5.53: A reporter asks him what time he got up and what he did. 7.05 - same routine.

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